

Crosby uncertain

Sidney Crosby is working harder at practice, but will not predict when he will return from an ankle injury. **1B**



THE Valley INDEPENDENT

An Edition of the TRIBUNE-REVIEW



Valley Health

Monongahela Valley Hospital will provide information on innovations in medical imaging. **7A**

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008

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INSIDE TODAY



Castro resigns

After nearly 50 years as the head of Cuba's revolutionary government, Fidel Castro has resigned. **5A**

Valley Profile

Casey Perotta is dedicated to the Donora Fire Co. **3A**

Trial slated

A federal civil rights trial is scheduled to begin today in a case involving a young Uniontown boy killed by a state trooper. **3A**

SPORTS



Minardi on spot

Breane Minardi faces a daunting task tonight when Monessen takes on Vincentian Academy. **1B**

Bentworth ready



Bentworth will take on Wilkesburg today with a spot in the WPIAL Class A championship game on the line. **1B**

DEATHS

- Thais Margaret Fowler, 90, Elco
- Nick A. Franks Sr., 81, Monongahela
- Mary Kachursky, 94, Monessen
- Pecola Lester, 90, Donora
- Raymond E. Peterson, 82, Donora
- Perina Traversari, 90, Carroll Township

Page 4A

WEATHER



Tonight
Snow 14°

Medicare won't pay for boo boos

Hospital errors costly

Changes are already in the works to increase patient safety.

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON — It's a new way to push for patient safety: Don't pay hospitals when they commit certain errors.

Medicare will start hitting hospitals where it hurts in October, and other insurers are hot on the trail.

That has the nation's hospitals exploring innovative programs to

prevent injury and infection: Hand-washing spies. Surgical sponges that sound an alarm if left in the body. Even a room sterilizer that promises to wipe out bacteria left lurking on bedrails.

"Money talks," says Dr. Steven Gordon, infectious disease chief at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. "Every hospital CFO, this gets their attention."

And patients' first sign that something is changing may involve lessening of a big indignity: Today, one in four hospitalized patients is outfitted with a urinary catheter. The tubes

trigger more than half a million urinary tract infections a year, the most common hospital-caused infection.

Yet many patients don't even need catheters — they're an automatic precaution after certain surgeries — and many who do have them for days longer than necessary.

Why?

The University of Michigan reported the first national study of catheter practices last month, finding nearly half of hospitals don't even keep track of who gets them. Fewer than one in 10

hospitals performs daily checks to see if catheter are still needed, a simple but proven infection-reducing system.

With those infections topping Medicare's do-not-pay list, Gordon says hospitals already are beginning to get choosier about who needs catheters, and to yank them faster.

Even when a hospital makes a preventable error, it still can be reimbursed for the extra treatment that patient will now require. Some errors can add

(See COSTLY, Page 2A)

Auditor has good news for BVA

The district has built a sizable fund balance that provides financial protection.

By JEFF PIKULSKY
Staff Writer
jpikulsky@tribweb.com

ROSTRAVER TOWNSHIP — The Belle Vernon Area School District's accounting firm Monday commended the school board.

Steve Cypher, of Canonsburg-based Cypher & Cypher, delivered a positive report for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. Cypher lauded the board for its work over the past five years to build a financial reserve.

He said the district is in a "favorable" financial position mainly because it now has a \$6.2 million fund balance.

Cypher said the district is well above the state requirement that school boards reserve an amount equal to at least 3 percent of their operating budgets.

BVA's 2006-2007 budget was approximately \$29.8 million.

Cypher said Belle Vernon Area is in the top third of districts for which his firm provides auditing services.

"What we would like to point out is the very nice recovery that the board and the administration has worked so hard for in creating a fund balance," Cypher said. "This is indicative that BVA is well-positioned to weather a future financial storm. Most of our school district clients don't get this good of a picture."



West Newton firefighter Andy Baran displays a defibrillator similar to the one used to save his life in January at the scene of a house fire.

West Newton firefighter grateful for life, comrades

The fire company will sponsor a Sunday brunch to benefit Andy and Tina Baran.

By CHRIS BUCKLEY
Staff Writer
cbuckley@tribweb.com

Andy Baran remembers talking to some old friends at a fire scene in South Huntingdon Township Jan. 24.

"Then the next thing I knew, I was staring straight up to the sky and they were calling my name," the veteran West Newton firefighter said. "I thought I fell (on the ice) and hit my head. But they said, 'Andy, you had a heart

"If those guys had not intervened or I had gotten into my truck, I'd have had a heart attack and died quietly," Baran said. "Those guys really stepped up."

The community is still "stepping up," rallying around Baran and his wife, Tina, in their time of need.

The West Newton Volunteer Fire Co. will sponsor an all-you-can-eat brunch 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday in the Youghiogheny Ballroom.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children 10 and younger. Children younger than 2 eat for free.

the reach of lifesaving equipment or lifelong friends that saved his life.

It was hard for him to see the pained faces of fellow firefighters that night who were so shaken by his heart attack.

"If those guys had not intervened or I had gotten into my truck, I'd have had a heart attack and died quietly."

ANDY BARAN

VALLEY PEOPLE

Clinton (FROM PAGE ONE)

what they say tomorrow."

One superdelegate, Marcel Groen, chairman of the Montgomery County Democratic Party, said he plans to stay with Clinton.

Clinton and Obama are in a tight race for the Democratic presidential nomination, which requires 2,025 delegates when the party convenes. In the latest count by The Associated Press, Obama has 1,280 delegates and Clinton has 1,218.

The 790 superdelegates represent about one-fifth of the 4,095 delegates to the convention. The party created the designation in 1982 to give party leaders more sway over the nomination process.

Last week, whispers of defections were all the talk

after Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, a veteran of the civil rights movement, switched his support from Clinton to Obama.

One local name in the rumor mill is former Pittsburgh mayor Sophie Masloff, a member of the Democratic National Committee.

"I am not committed, I never had been, so I was not anyone's to lose," Masloff said. "I think these reports are based on a committee meeting I attended, where a Hillary Clinton questionnaire was sent around asking if we needed more information on her, and I indicated that I did."

Sabato said superdelegates will do what is in their own interest, individually and as a party.

Yesteryear



Instructor Sapko is pictured with several of his Vocational Education students at Rostraver High School in the 1960s.

If you have a good old-time photograph, send it to us at Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa., 15062.

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Weather

Wednesday



High 25
Low 7

Thursday



High 25
Low 20

Friday



High 35
Low 22

Saturday



High 35
Low 20

Sunday



High 38
Low 20

Auditor (FROM PAGE ONE)

force behind the financial turnaround.

Nagy moved from district assistant superintendent to superintendent in July 2003, shortly after the school board approved a tax increase for a seventh straight year.

The string of tax hikes included considerable increases in the 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 budget years.

Cypher gave the board credit for handling unfunded state and federal mandates over the past few years and for dealing with rising education costs, especially for special education.

Bialon said he feels strongly that the state has harmed the district by enacting slots legislation that called for a shift in the district's tax structure, leading to an \$880,000 hole in its spending plan this year.

The school board opposed the legislation, claiming it would greatly change the district's tax structure and diminish the board's control over taxing.

Belle Vernon Area's tax structure is unusual. For years, its five municipalities — spread across two counties — were taxed separately according to a combination of county assessment and each municipality's share of the district's total market value.

Act 1 mandated the communities be grouped by county.

The change altered the tax structure and limited the ability to increase taxes. Bialon has been outspoken against Act 1.

When Cypher mentioned unfunded federal mandates, Bialon was quick to express distaste for similar provisions from the state.

"There is a lot of state government that comes into play," he said. "There was a lot of gambling money promised to districts for property tax rebates that never occurred at this point in time. Let's not bypass the state government because they're just as much to blame as the federal government for not funding the public education

system. It's very unfortunate that the state government does not come through with what they should."

"I think we're very fortunate with where we're at. Obviously, we're in a better financial situation than a lot of other places."

Board member Gerald Jackson said the district's considerable fund balance is not an indication that there is money to throw around.

"When it hits the paper that we have a \$6 million fund balance then it's, 'They can afford this and they can afford that,'" Jackson said. "Well, that's not the way it's run, and people don't understand that ... fiscally we're in good shape, we just don't have that money to go out and do whatever we want to."

After his presentation, Cypher said it is important for school boards to build financial cushions.

"While it seems like a really big number, it's actually what's necessary to do a proper management of the finances of any

government," he said of Belle Vernon's reserve fund. "They're running a house just like you're running your house. You have so much money in the bank, but you know you're going to have bills coming up. You just never know what the circumstances would be at a given point in time."

The school board is preparing to begin a multi-million dollar renovation project involving all school buildings.

The project involves expansion of the district's all-day kindergarten program through the construction of four classrooms at Rostraver Elementary School and three classrooms at Marion Elementary School.

Air conditioning will be added to Rostraver and Bellmar middle schools; 20 rooms at Rostraver Elementary; and 22 rooms at Marion Elementary.

Seven high school science labs will be upgraded.

The project is expected to begin in May and should be complete by Aug. 15, Bialon said.

Costly (FROM PAGE ONE)

\$10,000 to \$100,000 to the cost of a patient's stay.

Beginning Oct. 1, Medicare no longer will pay those extra-care costs for eight preventable hospital errors, including catheter-caused urinary tract infections, injuries from falls, and leaving objects in the body after surgery. In addition, hospitals cannot bill injured patients for those extra costs.

Next year, Medicare will add three more errors to the no-pay list: ventilator-caused pneumonia and drug-resistant staph infections are top candidates.

Medicare, which insures about 44 million elderly and disabled people, estimates the move will save the government about \$190 million over five years.

It also sparked a movement: Such private insurance giants as Aetna are moving to make hospitals absorb the cost of serious errors.

Pennsylvania last month said it would follow Medicare's example and stop Medicaid payments, too. The American Hospital Association is urging

members to voluntarily quit billing for treatment of serious errors, and hospitals in a number of states, from Minnesota to Vermont, have announced they will.

Many hospitals already were trying to improve patient safety for a bigger reason — to prevent suffering and death — and a question is whether making them literally pay for mistakes will spur greater improvements. But some novel attempts are under way:

■ A standard mop-and-bucket cleaning leaves bacteria in hospital rooms, especially on electronic equipment that janitors hesitate to touch.

So the Wellmont Health System in Kingsport, Tenn., is testing a portable machine that sterilizes a closed room by spewing out vaporized hydrogen peroxide that reach into every nook and cranny.

STERIS Corp.'s VaproSure is proven to eliminate tough germs; it has long been used in sterile manufacturing facilities, and even helped clean buildings tainted in

the 2001 anthrax attacks.

But doctors, nurses and others bring new germs into rooms every time they enter, raising the question of whether sterilizing between check-ins will really lead to fewer infections.

"There's no question they can sterilize a room," Wellmont chief executive Dr. Richard Salluzzo says of the \$180,000 machines. "Has it prevented infection? We don't have the answer to that yet."

He hopes to have enough data to tell by year's end.

■ Nurses count surgical sponges to make sure they're all out before a patient is sewn up, but every hospital occasionally misses some. In University of Michigan operating rooms, doctors are testing sponges tagged with bar code-like radiofrequency chips. Wave a wand and a beep sounds if a sponge is still in the wound. Or, nurses can drop used sponges into a "smart" bucket that counts how many are missing.

"We've had a long history in medicine of this problem continuing to occur no

matter what kind of very careful steps we've devised," says clinical affairs chief Dr. Darrell Campbell, a well-known patient safety specialist. "We want to get to zero."

■ In University of Michigan's hospital halls, physician assistants are assigned to spy to tell if fellow workers wash hands both when entering and exiting patient rooms. Workers are better at remembering on the way in, but they don't want to carry germs back to the nurses' station or elevator buttons, either, Campbell notes. Some bugs can live on cool hospital surfaces for weeks.

There is some concern that the no-pay push could make hospitals try to hide certain errors, or just trade one problem for another. Pull a urinary catheter too soon, for example, and a fragile patient may fall going to the bathroom, says Michigan's Campbell.

"I don't know how much is really preventable," adds the Cleveland Clinic's Gordon.

"We want to chase zero, but we'll probably never get to zero."

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Lincoln relative delivers address

Abe's descendant gives President's Day talk at the Flight 93 crash site.

By BOB STILES
For The Valley Independent
bstiles@tribweb.com

In the valley of heroes in Somerset County, within a few miles of the Flight 93 crash site, another American hero visited Monday, helped by a relative.

Ralph Lincoln of Berlin in Somerset County, a distant relative of Abraham Lincoln, portrayed the former president in a 30-minute presentation on Presidents Day at the Flight 93 Chapel in Stonycreek.

Dressed as the former president, including a top hat, Lincoln spent much of his talk on the need for Americans to fight for freedom.

"We are fighting for freedom today," Lincoln said. "All of our freedom is being challenged by terrorists."

Lincoln's great-great-great grandfather was a brother to the president's grandfather.

Lincoln, a 1974 graduate of Connellsville Area High School, bears a strong resemblance to the 16th



Clara Lincoln adjusts the bow tie of her son Ralph Lincoln's collar minutes before he was to take the stage on Presidents Day inside the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel.

president, including the same scraggly beard, although he is about 6 inches shorter.

The similarities cause people to sometimes stare at Lincoln. Many will ask him whether he knows he looks like the president. Lincoln tells them yes - and why.

Frank Schmidt, a Johnstown psychologist, said after the presentation that the similarities between Lincoln and the former president made the event more poignant for him.

"I think it was unique from the standpoint of the resemblance between the speaker and (President Lincoln)," he said.

"And it gave a tremendous

amount of credibility and reality to the speech and his responses to some of the questions from the audience."

Many of the audience's questions focused on the Civil War. During the talk, Lincoln said he was a registered Republican but urged voters to cast ballots for those who hold their same beliefs and convictions, not strictly for political party reasons.

The public performance was Lincoln's fourth. He began portraying the president formally last year. "I've been comfortable with them all," Lincoln said after the talk.

The Rev. Alphonse Mascherino, chapel direc-

tor, said the talk was held in honor of Presidents Day. At least one more talk by Ralph Lincoln is planned for next year, possibly on the anniversary of the late president's 200th birthday.

Raymond Clobus of Baltimore was visiting the Flight 93 temporary memorial and stopped in at the chapel yesterday morning. He was told if he returned later in the day, he could meet Lincoln.

"I knew it was Presidents Day, so I decided to take advantage of the opportunity," Clobus said.

"I think it was excellent. He bears the resemblance of his lineage, and he was honest in the way he spoke about events."

Opening arguments scheduled today in wrongful death trial

Civil suit involves the 2002 shooting death of a Uniontown boy by a state trooper.

By DEBRA ERDLEY
For The Valley Independent
derdley@tribweb.com

A coroner's inquest determined the shooting was justified.

A federal review produced similar conclusions.

More than five years after 12-year-old Michael Ellerbe was fatally shot in the back by state police as he fled from them in a Uniontown alley, a jury is set to hear opening statements today in a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by the boy's father, Michael Hickenbottom.

State and federal authorities declined to file criminal charges against two troopers involved in the shooting, and attorneys for Ellerbe's family insist this trial will be the first full airing of the Dec. 24, 2002, shooting.

"We've never had an adversarial situation about these facts. This is the first time for that, the first and only time all of the facts have been looked at," said Pittsburgh attorney Joel Sansone, who has partnered on the case with famed Michigan attorney Geoffrey Fieger.

Trooper Juan Curry testified at a Fayette County coroner's inquest that his gun accidentally discharged when he fell in pursuit of Ellerbe, who was fleeing from a stolen sport utility vehicle.

Trooper Samuel Nassan said he heard the shot, saw

Curry go down, believed Ellerbe had shot his partner and fired at the boy.

An autopsy concluded that Ellerbe was killed by a single shot that pierced arteries near his heart.

Attorney Andrew Fletcher, who is representing the troopers, did not return a call for comment.

The lawsuit, to be heard before U.S. District Judge Joy Flowers Conti, alleges the troopers exhibited gross negligence and willful or wanton misconduct, and that their actions violated Ellerbe's civil rights, resulting in his death.

The standard in such cases is not as strict as the "reasonable doubt" standard used in criminal cases, said Villanova Law School professor Teri Ravenell, who teaches classes on police misconduct and civil rights.

A plaintiff only needs "proof that it is more likely than not that the defendant engaged in the conduct and the conduct was 'wrongful,'" Ravenell said.

State records show the police agency has paid out in two wrongful death cases in the past decade.

In 2005, the state paid \$275,000 to settle a wrongful death lawsuit Sally Bennett filed on behalf of her son, David, who was killed in 1994 when a state trooper shot him in Hempfield.

In 2006, the state paid \$350,000 to the estate of Eddie Vega, a Luzerne County man who was fatally shot after he swung a garden rake at two state troopers responding to a domestic violence call.

Perrotta enjoys helping people in need

By JEFF OLIVER
Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

DONORA - As an eighth grade student at Carroll Middle School, Casey Perrotta was taught CPR and first aid.

It was an innocent enough taste of the emergency services field, but it was enough to hook Perrotta into a career that he has chosen for his life.

"That's probably where it all started," said Perrotta, captain/secretary of the Donora Fire Company.

"After I took that class, I wanted to help people out."

Perrotta, 26, has devoted most of his life since that time to serving people in need.

He earned his EMT certification at the age of 16 and joined the Donora Fire Co. in 1999.

"I couldn't join the fire department until I was 18," he noted.

"I just want to help the public. I see people in need and I want to make a difference. It's really rewarding to be able to help someone

Valley
profiles

A weekly look
at one of our neighbors
in trouble."

Ironically, Perrotta did more than help someone in need twice in a nine-month period. He may have saved two lives.

On Oct. 22, 2006, while fighting a fire in Donora, Perrotta pulled Bernard Brantley from a burning building.

Then, on July 21, 2007, while on the scene as an EMT, he pulled Margaret Smida from a burning building in Carroll Township.

"If a firefighter makes one rescue in a career, it is amazing," he said. "Strangely, I was able to do it twice in nine months."

"And that's why I do what I do. It's hard work and you sometimes don't feel appreciated, but it is very satisfying."

A 2000 graduate of Ringgold High School, Perrotta earned his bachelor's degree in criminology from California University of

Pennsylvania in 2005.

The following year, he attended paramedic classes at the center for emergency medicine in Pittsburgh.

He served as an EMT for Tri-Community Ambulance Service in Monongahela until November 2007.

After joining the Donora Fire Company, Perrotta was named secretary in 2002. He served as lieutenant from 2002-04 and has been a captain since 2006.

While many emergency service personnel go about their jobs in anonymity, Perrotta has received several honors for his work.

He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2006 by the Mon Valley Knights of Columbus.

In 2007, he received heroism awards from the Washington County Firemen's Association and the Carroll Township supervisors.

In August 2007, he was elected Man of the Year by the Ernest E. Jobs American Legion Post 212 in Donora.

While his duties in the emergency services field require a great deal of his time and have him on call 24 hours per day, Perrotta has still found time to offer his services in other ways.

He has spent seven years as a WPIAL basketball offi-

cial and also serves as the clock operator at Joe Montana Stadium for Ringgold's football and soccer teams.



VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Vote early, vote often, but be sure to vote for your favorite pet!

Visit www.valleyindependent.com/petsuperstar to view the online photo gallery for the Pet Superstar Contest. The winners will be determined by your votes! Cost per vote is 25 cents.*

All proceeds benefit the Newspaper in Education Program.

Round 1 voting closes on Friday, February 22, 2008 at 4:30pm.

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- Fill out your voting ballot completely so that your votes will go to your chosen pet(s).
- You may also visit www.valleyindependent.com/petsuperstar to download a voting ballot and view the contestant photos online. Votes must be brought in or mailed to The Valley Independent.
- After the deadline, all votes will be tallied to determine the top vote getters.

- *Votes are not cumulative and will start over during Round 2.
- The top 50 vote getters will be featured in our Second Round of voting appearing on Tuesday, March 4. Voting will then continue until Friday, March 14 at 4:30 pm.
- The top 25 vote getters will be featured in our Third Round of voting appearing on Tuesday, March 18 and will then continue until Friday, March 28 at 4:30 pm. This voting round will determine the winners.
- The top 3 photos receiving the most votes will appear in the newspaper on April 8, 2008. First place is \$250.00, Second place is \$150.00 and Third place is \$50.00.
- All proceeds from the Pet Superstar Contest benefit the Valley Independent Newspaper in Education program.
- *25 cent voting fee consists of a voluntary 20 cent donation. If you wish to not donate, you may vote for 5 cents per vote. *Votes will be tallied at the end of each voting round based on 5 cents per vote.

When submitting announcements ...

When submitting information for anniversaries, weddings and engagements, please list the first and last names of all people. We will not run items that list people, for example, as Mr. and Mrs. John Doe.



ATTENTION ROUND HILL CEMETERY LOT OWNERS

Notice is given by Round Hill Cemetery that a seasonal clean-up will begin Saturday, March 1, 2008. Anyone wishing to reclaim his or her reusable decorations should do so before above date.

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RECORDS

Monongahela man charged in vase thefts

171 brass items were taken from graves at Mon Valley Memorial Park.

By JEFF OLIVER

Staff Writer
joliver@tribweb.com

DONORA — Quick work by police resulted in the arrest of a Monongahela man for allegedly stealing vases from grave sites at Mon Valley Memorial Park.

Larry Earl Jericho, 28, of 13 Rabe Ave., has been charged with theft by unlawful taking and institutional vandalism to cemeteries.

Police Superintendent Jim Brice said his department received a call at 11:03 a.m. Monday from an official of the cemetery saying that 171 brass vases were missing from grave sites.

"The first thing we did was call around to scrap yards to see if they had received anything and we got response from three of them that they had," said Brice.

While Patrolman Brett Massafra was en route to one of the scrap yards, Monongahela Metal Management, Monongahela, police got a call that Jericho was there trying to sell more than 100 pounds of brass vases.

"They kind of kept him around until we were able to arrive there and arrest him," Brice said of Jericho.

Brice said most of the vases have been recovered from the scrap yards.

Jericho was arraigned and bail was set at \$5,000 straight cash. He is currently lodged in the Washington County Correctional facility.

POLICE LOG

Monessen

■ Joshua Gazdik, 30, of 225 Shawnee Ave., Monessen, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for a burglary charge 12:30 p.m. Friday, police said. He was arraigned before Magisterial District Judge Charles Christner, in West Newton and placed in the Westmoreland County Detention Center.

■ Justin Smith, 22, of Monessen, was charged with possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and driving under suspension 1:03 a.m. Monday in Park Manor, police said.

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Perhaps you sent a lovely card,
Or sat quietly in a chair,
Perhaps you sent a floral spray
If so, we saw it there.
Perhaps you sent a gift of food
Or let us use your car,
Perhaps it was a call you made
From nearby or afar.
Perhaps you spoke the kindest word
As any friend could say,
Perhaps you were not there at all
Or just thought of us that day.
Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much, whatever the part.
A special thanks to
Dr. DeRienzo,
Fr. David Nazimek,
Msgr. P. Lino Ramellini,
Staff at Hallsworth House III,
Dalfonso Billick Funeral Home
and all those who helped in any way to lessen our sorrow in our bereavement after the death of our beloved
Patsy S. Martucci.

The Martucci Family

FOWLER — Thais M. Fowler, 90, of Elco, on Sunday, Feb. 17. Ed Melenzyer Funeral Homes Inc., Roscoe.*

FRANKS — Nick A. Franks Sr., 81, of Monongahela, on Sunday, Feb. 17. Marshall Marra Funeral Home, Monongahela.*

KACHURSKY — Mary Kachursky, of Monessen, on Monday, Feb. 18. Rhome Funeral Home Inc., Monessen.*

LESTER — Pecola Lester, of Donora, on Monday, Feb. 18. House of Jackson Memorial Chapel, Donora.

PETERSON — Raymond E. Peterson, 82, of Donora, on Monday, Feb. 18. Paul Macik Funeral Home, Donora.*

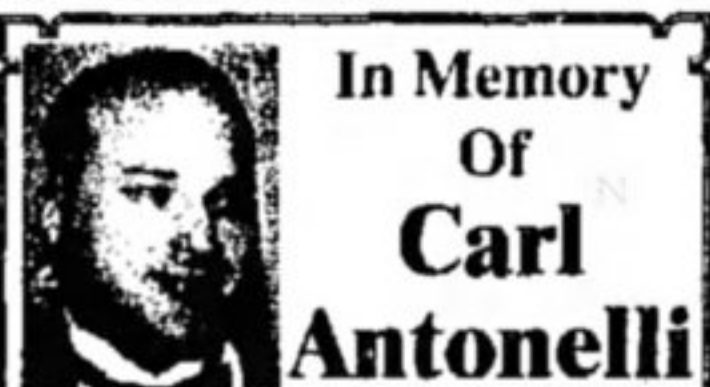
TRAVERSARI — Perina Traversari, of Carroll Township, on Monday, Feb. 18. Carl J. Spallino Funeral Home, Charleroi.

PREVIOUS DEATHS:
BECKOVICH, Irene L.*
PATRONAS, Helen*
POLINCHAK, Mary V.*
ROBERTSON, Russell Sr.*
* See death notice



Irene L. Beckovich
Monongahela

Irene L. Brun Kovalak-Beckovich, 82, of Monongahela, died Sunday, February 17, 2008, in Havencrest Nursing Center, Carroll Township. Born June 11, 1925, in Donora, she was the daughter of the late Henry and Juliette Mathieu Brun. A graduate of Donora High School, she worked at the former A&P Grocery Store in Donora, retiring in 1975. She was a former member of Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church in Donora and belonged to their Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and she was a current member of Transfiguration Catholic Church in Monongahela. Surviving is her husband of 21 years, Michael R. Beckovich Sr., whom she married January 17, 1987; two daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Louise and John Bagay, of Monongahela, and Carol A. and David Plasman, of Charleroi; one sister, Harriet Hellen, of Oneida, N.Y.; three grandchildren, Lisa Bagay-Hawrot and husband, James, and Kellie and Megan Plasman; two step-sons, Michael R. Beckovich Jr. and wife, Margie, of Clairton, and Daniel Beckovich and wife, Kathy, of Bethel Park; two step-daughters, Judy Maselli and husband, James, of West Elizabeth, and Monica Ripinski and husband, Frank, of Clairton; eight step-grandchildren, Matthew, Keri, Colleen and Kevin Beckovich, Hayley Ripinski, and James, Shawn and Eric Maselli. Preceding her in death was her first



In Memory
Of
Carl Antonelli

In loving memory of our beloved son and brother, Carl Antonelli, who passed away one year ago today, February 19, 2007.
Little did we know that morning the sorrow the day would bring. The end was sudden, the shock severe, to part with you, the one we loved so dear. We did not know the pain you had or hear your final sigh, we only knew that you had left us without a last goodbye. In life we loved you dearly, in death we do the same. Many a lonely heartache after a lonely tear, you have passed beyond our love and care, but not beyond our thoughts and prayers. When days are dark and friends are few, dearly beloved how we long for you.
Sadly missed and loved by mother, brothers & sisters and co-workers

husband, George Kovalak, on October 6, 1983, to whom she was married for 37 years; and one sister, Leona Hudak, on October 28, 2006. Friends will be received at the MARSHALL MARRA FUNERAL HOME, 216 Chess St., Monongahela (724-258-6767), on Tuesday, February 19, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in Transfiguration Catholic Church on Wednesday, February 20, at 10 a.m. with the Rev. George Chortos, pastor, as celebrant. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Carroll Township.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Nick A. Franks Sr.

Nick A. Franks Sr., 81, of Monongahela, died Sunday, February 17, 2008, in Canonsburg General Hospital. Born July 10, 1926, in Donora, he was the son of Dominic and Josephine Muia Franks. He worked at the former Mississippi Glass Factory in Floreffe and retired in 1982 from Corning Glass in Charleroi. Mr. Franks served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he was stationed in the South Pacific. He was a member of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Monongahela. Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law, Nick A. Jr. and Joan Franks and Richard and Jackie Franks, all of Tucson, Ariz., and Dennis and Laurie Franks, of Finleyville; a daughter and son-in-law, Linda and Keith Todd, of Crown Point, Ind.; one sister, Grace Healey, of Monongahela; and 10 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Preceding him in death was his wife, Mary A. Poroda Franks, on February 6, 1995; two brothers, Vincent and Anthony Franks; and two sisters, Catherine Books and Ellen Spaziani. Friends will be received at the MARSHALL MARRA FUNERAL HOME, 216 Chess St., Monongahela (724-258-6767), from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. Thursday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in St. Anthony Catholic Church on Friday, February 22, at 10 a.m. with Fr. Joseph Feltz as celebrant. Interment will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Carroll Township. Memorial contributions can be made to: Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 14301, Cincinnati, Ohio 45250-0301, ATTN: Gift Processing.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Mary Kachursky

Mary Kachursky, 94, of Monessen, died Monday, February 18, 2008, in Mon Valley Hospital. She was the daughter of the late Michael and Mary Horvath Balas. Mrs. Kachursky was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Monessen, the Fidelity Bible Class, and the United Lutheran Society Assembly 76A. She enjoyed sewing and quilting. Surviving is one daughter, Mary M. Spiegelberg, of Monessen; one son, John A. Kachursky and wife, Bonnie, of Rostraver Township; five grandchildren, Pamela

DEATH NOTICES

Weissert and husband, Larry, Cynthia Dunmeyer and husband, Gary, Larry Dale Spiegelberg, John Michael Kachursky and wife, Anna Mae, and Debbi DeTullio and husband, Paul; three great-grandchildren, Valerie Weissert, Christopher Weissert and Kristie Rygiel; two sisters, Margaret Fair, of Knox, and Lillian Sitterly, of Indiana, Pa.; one brother, William Luke Balas, of Titusville; and one daughter-in-law, Mary Ann Andrews. Preceding her in death was her husband, Frank Kachursky; one son, Frank E. Kachursky; three brothers, Michael, Andrew and John Balas; and one sister, Susan YaSanka. Friends will be received Tuesday, February 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. and Wednesday, February 20, from 1 to 3 and 6 to 8 p.m. at the RHOME FUNERAL HOME INC., a Golden Rule Funeral Home, 1209 Grand Blvd., Monessen. Funeral services will be held Thursday, February 21, at 10 a.m. in St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Monessen with the Rev. Christine Ingold officiating. Interment will follow in Grandview Cemetery, Monessen.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Thais M. Fowler

Thais Margaret Fowler, 90, of Elco, was called by God to take her home with the angels on Sunday, February 17, 2008. She was a member of the Roscoe Presbyterian Church, the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 801, and a 1935 graduate of California Area High School, where she served as treasurer and secretary of the Reunion Committee. Thais, a 70-year resident of Elco, known to all as just "Ma", was born October 3, 1917, and raised in Stockdale. She was a daughter of the late Viola Moore and Jerry Gollick and was one of the last remaining Stockdale families for which the town was named. Thais was married to Robert G. Fowler, who died in 1972 and who served as Chief of Police in Elco until his illness. Thais was a lifelong caregiver, not only for her husband, Bob, for 21 years, but, after his death, she cared for several other area people until she needed the care. Thais was loved and will be dearly missed by her daughter, Wendy Fowler Bielawski, with whom she resided; and her son, Robert G. Fowler Jr., of Roscoe; grandson, John Robert Bielawski and wife, Jennifer; great-granddaughters, Emily Megan and Sarah Elizabeth Bielawski, all of California, Pa.; and five grandchildren in the Tacoma, Wash., area, Richard Fowler and wife, Jennifer, Pam, John, Jim and Mike Fowler; one nephew, William Hess and wife, Nancy, of McMurray; and a special loving friend, Tammy Lynn Vadella, of Roscoe. In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by an infant son, J. Thomas Fowler; a step-son, Robert Lee Fowler; and her loving aunt and best friend, Irene Hess. Friends will be received Wednesday, February 20, from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. in the ED MELENZYER FUNERAL HOMES INC., Roscoe (724-938-9323), where American Legion services will be held at 6 p.m. Funeral services will be held Thursday, February 21, at 11 a.m. in

the funeral home with Pastor Randy Landerman of Grace United Methodist Church officiating. Interment will be in Belle Vernon Cemetery. On-line condolences will be accepted at www.melenzyerfuneralhomes.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Raymond E. Peterson

Raymond E. Peterson, 82, of Donora, passed away Monday, February 18, 2008, in Havencrest Nursing Center Inc., Carroll Township. He was born in Donora on March 7, 1925, the son of the late Eric Werner and Elsie Gustava Peterson. Ray was a machinist with U.S. Steel, Donora Works and later worked for USX Research Center in Monroeville, from which he retired. He was president of the St. Nicholas Orthodox Church Council for many years and participated in many of the church's social groups. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife, Dorothy Beck Peterson; and two brothers, John Harry Peterson and Carl Peterson. Survivors include one sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Janet and Antonio Miralles; two brothers, Melvin (Marge) Peterson, of Florida, and Walter (Doris) Peterson, of Ohio; and several nieces and nephews. Friends will be received Wednesday, February 20, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the PAUL MACIK FUNERAL HOME, 546 Thompson Ave., Donora (724-379-7000), where brief services will be held Thursday, February 21, at 9:30 a.m., followed by funeral services in St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, Donora, at 10 a.m. with the Very Rev. Igor R. Soroka officiating. Interment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. A Parastas service will be held in the funeral home on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Russell E. Robertson Sr.

Fallowfield Township
Russell E. Robertson Sr., 90, of Fallowfield Township, died Saturday, February 16, 2008, in Country Care Manor, Fayette City. He was born March 13, 1917, in Greensburg, a son of the late Oliver and Margaret Duncan Robertson. He was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Coal Center, the Fallowfield Township Grange and Charleroi Lodge No. 615, F&AM. Mr. Robertson was retired from General Motors, Fisher Body Plant in West Mifflin. Surviving is his wife, Isabel Diamond Robertson; one son, Russell E. Robertson Jr. and wife, Delores, of Charleroi; two daughters, Roberta Miller and husband, Ronald, of Fallowfield Township, and Judy Rafferty-Miller and husband, Ernest, of Brownsville; one brother, Mervin Robertson, of Richeyville; one sister, Eunice Harrold, of Darragh; seven grandchildren, John Rafferty, Richard Rafferty Jr., Dianna Rafferty, Melissa Miller, Ronald Miller Jr., Casey Clark and Carrie Mashuda; and nine great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by four brothers, George, Kenny, Samuel and Clinton Robertson; and two sisters, Clarabelle Wells and Davitta Paysek. Friends will be received Tuesday, February 19, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the SCHRICK-HOGAN FUNERAL HOME &

CREMATION SERVICES INC., (www.schrock-hogan.com), 226 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, where funeral services will be held Wednesday, February 20, at 11 a.m. Officiating will be Dr. John K. Smith. Interment will be in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. The family has requested memorial contributions be made to the Alzheimer's Disease Alliance of Western Pennsylvania.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.



Mary V. Polinchak
California, Pa.

Mary V. Polinchak, 94, of California, Pa., formerly of Charleroi, died Saturday, February 16, 2008, in Jefferson Regional Medical Center. She was born in Greensburg on September 21, 1913, the daughter of the late Luigi and Amelia "Annie" Rich Romasco. Prior to living in California, Mrs. Polinchak was a resident of Monessen and Charleroi, and a member of Mary, Mother of the Church in Charleroi. She is survived by three sons, Paul Capozza, of Belle Vernon, Lewis Capozza, of Dunlevy, and Robert Suomela and wife, Mary, of Monessen; two daughters, Joan Langley, of Carlisle, and Amelia Bolias and husband, Nick, of Monessen; seven sisters, Minnie Bonie, of Pittsburgh, Virginia Delegge, of Monessen, Anita Friedl, of Moon Township, and Pearl Kirk, Louise Marsilio, Eleanor McClellan and Evelyn Genrone, all of Coraopolis; 15 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Steve Polinchak; one sister, Rose Skopinski; and two brothers, Louis and Gerald Romasco. Friends will be received Tuesday, February 19, from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. in the DALFONSO-BILICK FUNERAL HOME INC. and CREMATION SERVICES, 441 Reed Ave., Monessen (724-684-8750). Services will be held on Wednesday February 20, beginning with a 9:45 a.m. prayer service in the funeral home, followed by a 10:30 a.m. Funeral Mass in Mary, Mother of the Church, Charleroi. Entombment will follow in Mon Valley Memorial Park, Donora. Condolences accepted for the family at www.dalfonso-billick.com

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

Helen Patronas

Private funeral services were held for Helen E. Patronas, 83, of Monessen, who passed away Thursday, February 14, 2008, in Mon Valley Hospital. RHOME FUNERAL HOME INC., Monessen, was in charge of arrangements.

Family and friends are invited to sign the online guest book at www.valleyindependent.com.

A Valentine's Day Tribute In Loving Memory Of Our Beloved Family
Mom - Mary N. Prush, Dad - Peter J. Prush, Alice, Michael, Ted, Betty, Joe & Joyce
Our hearts still ache with sadness, our eyes shed many tears, God only knows how much we miss you at the end of these long years. And when evening shadows are falling, and we are sitting all alone, there comes to us a longing, if only you could come home.
Sadly missed by Rosemary & Geraldine

NEWS

TODAY IN HISTORY



Today is Tuesday, Feb. 19, the 50th day of 2008. There are 316 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight

On Feb. 19, 1945, during World War II, some 30,000 U.S. Marines began landing on Iwo Jima, where they commenced a successful monthlong battle to seize control of the island from Japanese forces.

On this date:

■ In 1803, Congress voted to accept Ohio's borders and constitution.

■ In 1807, former Vice President Aaron Burr, accused of treason, was arrested in the Mississippi Territory, in present-day Alabama. (Burr was acquitted at trial.)

■ In 1846, the Texas state government was formally installed in Austin, with J. Pinckney Henderson taking the oath of office as governor.

■ In 1878, Thomas Edison received a U.S. patent for "an improvement in phonograph or speaking machines."

■ In 1881, Kansas prohibited the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages.

■ In 1942, President Roosevelt signed an executive order that gave the military the authority to relocate and intern U.S. residents, including citizens, of Japanese ancestry.

■ In 1942, Japanese warplanes, attacking in two waves, raided the Australian city of Darwin; at least 243 people were killed.

■ In 1959, an agreement was signed by Britain, Turkey and Greece granting Cyprus its independence.

■ In 1997, Deng Xiaoping, the last of China's major Communist revolutionaries, died at age 92.

■ **Ten years ago:** U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan set out for Iraq on a last-chance peace mission, saying he was "reasonably optimistic" about ending the standoff over weapons inspections without the use of force.

■ **Five years ago:** Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt announced his second candidacy for president with a pledge to repeal most of President Bush's tax cuts. An Iranian military plane carrying 275 members of the elite Revolutionary Guards crashed in southeastern Iran, killing all on board.

■ **One year ago:** Three-way talks between Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Israeli and Palestinian leaders, initially billed as a new U.S. push to restart peace efforts, ended with little progress other than a commitment to meet again.



Cuban President Fidel Castro speaks with the press in Havana in this August 2005 file photo. The ailing leader resigned as Cuba's president early today, saying in a letter published in official online media that he would not accept a new term when the newly-elected parliament meets on Sunday.

Fidel Castro resigns Cuban presidency

The resignation opens the path for Raul Castro's succession as leader.

By ANITA SNOW
Associated Press Writer

HAVANA — An ailing Fidel Castro resigned as Cuba's president Tuesday after nearly a half-century in power, saying he was retiring and will not accept a new term when the new parliament meets Sunday.

"I will not aspire to nor accept — I repeat, I will not aspire to nor accept — the post of President of the Council of State and Commander in Chief," read a letter signed by Castro published early Tuesday in the online edition of the Communist Party daily Granma.

The announcement effectively ends the rule of the 81-year-old Castro after almost 50 years, positioning his 76-year-old brother Raul for permanent succession to the presidency. Fidel Castro temporarily ceded his powers to his brother on July 31, 2006, when he announced that he had undergone intestinal surgery.

Since then, the elder Castro has not been seen in public, appearing only sporadically in official

photographs and videotapes and publishing dense essays about mostly international themes as his younger brother has consolidated his rule.

A new National Assembly was elected in January, and will meet for the first time Sunday to pick the governing Council of State, including the presidency that Fidel Castro has held since the assembly's 1976 creation. Before 1976, Castro was president under a different government structure, and previously served as prime minister.

There had been wide speculation about whether Castro, Cuba's unchallenged leader since 1959, would continue as president.

"My wishes have always been to discharge my duties to my last breath. That's what I can offer," Castro wrote. But, he continued, "it would be a betrayal to my conscience to accept a responsibility requiring more mobility and dedication than I am physically able to offer. This I say devoid of all drama."

Castro said Cuban officials had wanted him to remain in power after his surgery. "It was an uncomfortable situation for me vis-a-vis an adversary

that had done everything possible to get rid of me, and I felt reluctant to comply," he said in a reference to the United States.

The resignation opens the path for Raul Castro's succession to the presidency, and the full autonomy he has lacked in leading a caretaker government. The younger Castro has raised expectations among Cubans for modest economic and other reforms, stating last year that the country requires unspecified "structural changes" and acknowledging that government wages that average about \$19 a month do not satisfy basic needs.

As first vice president of Cuba's Council of State, Raul Castro was his brother's constitutionally designated successor and appears to be a shoo-in for the presidential post when the council meets Sunday. More uncertain is who will be chosen as Raul's new successor, although 56-year-old council Vice President Carlos Lage, who is Cuba's de facto prime minister, is a strong possibility.

Ten U.S. administrations tried to topple Castro, most famously in the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961.

Bush hoping for transition to democracy

U.S. president says change should lead to free and fair elections.

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — President Bush today expressed hope that Cuba will begin a transition to democracy following the end of Fidel Castro's decades-long regime.

Castro, who is ailing, resigned as Cuba's president today after nearly a half-century in power. Castro temporarily ceded his powers to his brother, Raul, on July 31, 2006, when he announced that he

had undergone intestinal surgery.

"The international community should work with the Cuban people to begin to build institutions that are necessary for democracy," Bush said during a news conference with the president of Rwanda.

"Eventually, this transition ought to lead to free and fair elections — and I mean free, and I mean fair — not these kind of staged elections that the Castro brothers try to foist off as true democracy," Bush

said.

The announcement effectively ends the rule of the 81-year-old Castro after almost 50 years, positioning his 76-year-old brother for permanent succession to the presidency.

Bush was notified of the news about Castro by his national security adviser while traveling in Africa. He was expected to get a fuller briefing on the situation later in the day.

"The United States will help the people of Cuba realize the blessings of liberty," Bush said.

THE WORLD BRIEFLY

Pro-Musharraf party concedes

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan's ruling party conceded defeat today after opposition parties routed allies of President Pervez Musharraf in parliamentary elections that could threaten the rule of America's close ally in the war on terror.

Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, head of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q, told AP Television News that "we accept the results with an open heart" and "will sit on opposition benches" in the new parliament.

"All the King's men, gone!" proclaimed a banner headline in the Daily Times. "Heavyweights knocked out," read the Dawn newspaper.

The results cast doubt on the political future of Musharraf, who was re-elected to a five year term last October in a controversial parliamentary ballot.

With the support of smaller groups and independent candidates, the opposition could gain the two-thirds majority in parliament needed to impeach Musharraf, who has angered many Pakistanis by allying the country with Washington in 2001 to fight al-Qaida and the Taliban after the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

Bush looking for help in Darfur

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — President Bush is calling on all nations to step up efforts to end the genocidal killing in Sudan's western Darfur region "once and for all."

Speaking in Rwanda, which was wracked in 1994 with its own genocide, the president says the United States will use sanctions, pressure and money to help resolve the crisis. But Bush has been frustrated at the lack of willingness in some countries to do the same and sought to increase pressure with his remarks in the Rwandan capital of Kigali.

Bush announced that the

U.S. will provide \$100 million more to train peacekeepers for service in Darfur.

Crew finishes work on space station

HOUSTON (AP) — Atlantis' astronauts got their spaceship ready for the ride home on today, wrapping up a two-week mission to add Europe's new orbital laboratory to the international space station.

The seven-man crew was spending the day conducting pre-landing systems checks and completing other chores, along with participating in televised interviews.

Early weather forecasts looked good for Wednesday morning's planned touchdown at Kennedy Space Center in Florida, NASA said.

If the weather changes, however, Atlantis will aim for the backup touchdown site in California to give the military time enough time to shoot down a damaged spy satellite without endangering the shuttle.

NIU funerals draw crowds

CHICAGO (AP) — Dozens waited in near-zero temperatures, some clutching flowers and cards, to pay their respects to Dan Parmenter, one of five students killed by a gunman last week at Northern Illinois University.

Many of Parmenter's Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers — wearing ribbons in remembrance of the 20-year-old sophomore — visited a funeral home in west-suburban Hillside on the eve of his funeral, set for today.

"Dan was a quiet young man, very nice and very determined," said family friend George Sefer.

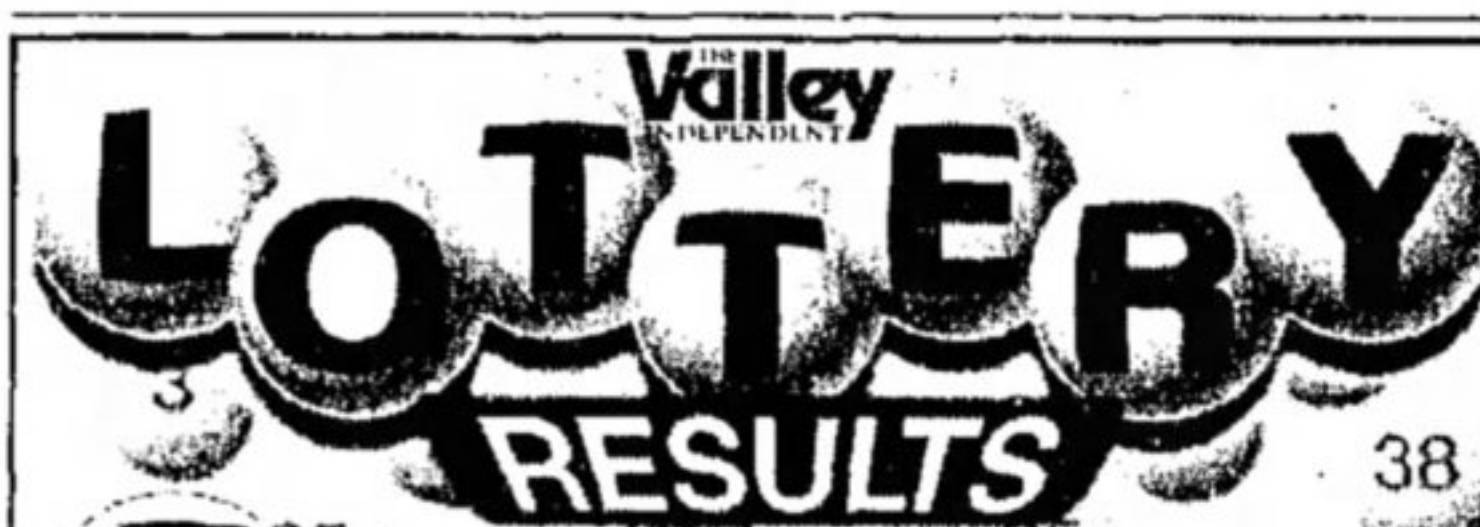
On Monday, a large bouquet of flowers sat next to Parmenter's casket, along with a card bearing the message, "We will all remember your son Dan as a wonderful person."

PENNSYLVANIA CASH 5

'Cash 5' jackpot at least \$375,000

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Today's "Pennsylvania Cash 5" jackpot will be worth at least \$375,000 because no player matched the five winning numbers drawn in Monday's game.

Lottery officials said 124 players matched four numbers and won \$181 each; 4,608 players matched three numbers and won \$8 each; and 51,477 players matched two numbers and won \$1 each.



PENNSYLVANIA DAILY NUMBERS

DAY PICK 3: 2-3-7
NIGHT PICK 3: 3-0-9
MONDAY, FEB. 18 DAY PICK BIG 4: 2-6-3-1
NIGHT PICK BIG 4: 9-0-1-7
TREASURE HUNT: 3-13-14-17-25
MIX & MATCH: 13-9-3-19-18
CASH 5: 9-11-22-26-39

OHIO DAILY NUMBERS

DAY PICK 3: 4-7-1
NIGHT PICK 3: 0-5-0
MONDAY, FEB. 18 DAY PICK 4: 8-2-1-8
NIGHT PICK 4: 1-1-9-3
ROLLING CASH 5: 6-15-23-29-39

WEST VIRGINIA DAILY NUMBERS

DAILY 3: 1-1-7
DAILY 4: 7-6-1-5
MONDAY, FEB. 18 CASH 25: 3-7-11-15-18-21

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of winning numbers and prize payouts. In the event of a discrepancy, the official and certified files maintained by the Pennsylvania Lottery's Security Office shall prevail.

Westmoreland County Community College Electronics Engineering Technology Program

Starting March 10 at —

Connellsville Career & Technical Center and Mon Valley Career & Technology Center

Electronics engineering technicians design and construct basic circuits and install, maintain and repair electronic equipment. They work for manufacturers, scientific and technical service industries, government agencies and are self-employed business owners. In Pennsylvania, they earn an average annual salary of \$49,500.

WCCC Program Highlights -

- Full- and part-time study available
- Classes meet Monday - Thursday
- Earn an associate degree upon successful completion
- Cost - \$96 per credit tuition and fees for Fayette & Washington county residents
- Ample financial aid opportunities available and special scholarships for those who qualify

Learn more at these Information Sessions:

Connellsville Career & Technical Center, Connellsville • February 19 & February 28, 6 p.m.
Mon Valley Career & Technology Center, Charleroi • February 21 & March 4, 6 p.m.
WCCC Mon Valley Education Center, Belle Vernon • February 27, 6 p.m.

For more information, call the WCCC Admissions Office at 724-925-4064.

This program is funded through a Technical College Program grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Education.



You can afford success with WCCC.
Westmoreland County Community College
An affirmative action, equal opportunity college

THE Valley INDEPENDENT

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OUR OPINION

Monessen's cafeteria problem finally fixed

IT WAS ENCOURAGING to see that the Monessen School District has enacted controls to reduce and eliminate student debt in the cafeteria system.

There is no reason for such a small district to allow students to rack up tabs totalling \$35,000. For that to occur, someone in management either was not paying attention or closing their eyes to the problem.

Because Monessen is an impoverished community, a high percentage of students is eligible for either free or reduced meals. The shortfall, though, apparently had more to do with poor internal controls than the inability of students to pay for school-provided food. Government programs cover much of that cost.

Rather, the problem centered on a credit system involving personal accounts for students. Parents and guardians are supposed to deposit money in the accounts. As the students purchase food in the cafeteria, money is drawn from the personal accounts.

In many cases, the money is not there, and that is the source of the debt.

Parents and guardians who truly cannot afford school-provided meals should explore the free and reduced meal system. If that is not the case, and parents and guardians are just leaning on the school system, then shame on them.

From now on, though, if students go into various levels of debt they will receive limited menu choices, and ultimately, a series of sanctions that includes withheld diplomas and appearances before a magisterial district judge.

That might seem harsh, but school officials must run the district — and especially the cafeteria — as a business. If parents and guardians are not properly paying for meals, taxpayers are footing the bills. Given the unfair nature of the school real estate system, property owners should not have to face additional financial burdens.

No child should go hungry, and no child will under the system in place. But no child — or more correctly, parents and guardians — should be allowed to take advantage of the system.

ANOTHER VIEW

Vindicator, Youngstown, Ohio, on deadly tornadoes:

Once again, images from somewhere else in the American heartland brought home the power that a tornado has to uproot, destroy and kill.

The Associated Press reported that 57 people were killed in ... storms that swept through Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky and Alabama, making it the deadliest U.S. tornado disaster in nearly a quarter of a century. The deadliest, as the Mahoning Valley knows too well, since May 31, 1985. That was the day 27 tornadoes swept through Ohio and Pennsylvania, killing 75 people. Another 12 died as the storm front moved through Ontario, Canada.

At times such as these, we can take two lessons away from the pain that we see others suffering.

One is to remind ourselves to be prepared. That applies both to government entities responsible for maintaining warning equipment and training response teams and to individual families. ...

Second, and just as important, is to support those charities, such as the Red Cross, that responded when tragedy struck here and are responding now in Tennessee and its neighboring states. They can be counted on to respond in the future, whenever and wherever needed, only if they continue to receive public support.

How to reach us

The Valley Independent welcomes the input of our readers. Letters, e-mails and faxes must be signed and should include an address and daytime telephone number so the content of the message can be verified. (Phone numbers will not be published.)

Send your comments:

— By mail to Your Opinion, The Valley Independent, Eastgate 19, Monessen, Pa. 15062.

— By e-mail to valleyletters@tribweb.com

— By fax to (724) 684-2603.

All messages are subject to editing for clarification, brevity and libel. Messages should be kept to 300 words. (No poetry, please.)

While letters usually are published in order of submission, those concerning timely local issues are given priority.

Passion, voter turnout fuel Democrats' high

Numbers are spurring Democrats' optimism about running the table come November, regaining the White House and continuing to control both houses of Congress. On "Super Tuesday," 15.4 million citizens voted in Democratic primaries. Only 9.1 million participated in Republican contests.

The proportions have remained like that since January, with Democrats outpolling Republicans by a 3-to-2 or better margin nationwide. We appear to be headed toward a paradigm-changing election like 1932, with Republicans relegated to reading tea leaves. Many GOP congressmen have announced their retirement, scrambling for K Street lobbying firms ahead of the rush.

And this couldn't happen to a more deserving party.

Fourteen years after Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America," we've seen the consequences of conservative dogma in action: disastrous wars, authoritarian lawlessness, staggering corruption in Washington and Baghdad alike, growing budget deficits and repeated episodes of massive financial fraud.

But can Democrats screw up the presidential contest anyway? Many are starting to think so. The possibility that neither Sen. Barack Obama nor Sen. Hillary Clinton will win enough delegates to lock up the nomination before the August convention has tensions running high. The prospect of so-called "superdelegates," i.e. senators, congressmen and other Democratic officeholders deciding the nominee has led to great anxiety, particularly among

Gene LYONS



Obama supporters.

If party rules aren't interpreted to their satisfaction, some say they'll quit the game, take their ball and go home. Longtime Democratic operative Donna Brazile, who managed Al Gore's 2000 campaign, has announced that if "superdelegates" settle the contest, she'll abandon the party.

Writing in his influential Open Left Weblog, Chris Bowers warns, "(i)f someone is nominated for POTUS from the Democratic Party despite another candidate receiving more popular support from Democratic primary voters and caucus goers, I will resign as local precinct captain, resign my seat on the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee, immediately cease all fund raising for all Democrats, refuse to endorse the Democratic 'nominee' ... and otherwise disengage from the Democratic Party."

Several things must be said. First, everybody making such threats needs to take a deep breath and calm down. This isn't about you, your hurt feelings or your pure, unsullied idealism. It's about the future of our country. Any Democrat who can't concede that either Clinton or Obama would be an enormous improvement over President Bush or the bellicose, irascible Sen. John McCain (the presumptive GOP nominee) has no business

participating in politics to begin with.

Second, a deadlocked convention ain't likely to happen. History shows that these theoretical train-wrecks rarely occur, although the memory of the 2000 Florida debacle can't help but provoke unease. Chances are the voters will decide the issue between now and the April 4 Pennsylvania primary, maybe before.

Third, and this is the tricky part, how exactly would one go about determining, assuming neither candidate wins a clear majority during the primaries, which one most Democrats favor? Given the hodgepodge of procedures in place across the country, it won't be easy.

"Who decides what the popular will is anyway?" asks Kevin Drum in his influential Washington Monthly Weblog. "Is it number of pledged delegates from the state contests? Total popular vote? Total number of states won? What about uncommitted delegates from primary states? Or caucus states, in which there's no popular vote to consult and delegates are selected in a decidedly nondemocratic fashion to begin with? And what about all the independent and crossover voters?"

As I write, Obama has won 11 caucuses and nine primaries. Caucuses clearly discriminate in favor of wealthier, better-educated voters, not necessarily those with the most at stake or the most critical to Democratic chances.

A number of his caucus victories have been achieved in small states such as North Dakota, Utah and Nebraska, which

Democrats have basically zero chance of winning. Several primary wins (South Carolina, Alabama) have also come in places Democrats won't carry come November.

With the obvious exception of Illinois, Obama's home state, the higher the turnout and the bigger the state (California, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts), the more likely Clinton is to have won it. This leads many political professionals to see her as the stronger candidate come November, the Woodstock-like zeal of Obama's supporters notwithstanding. An amateur, I see him as the second-coming of Adlai Stevenson, another high-minded orator from Illinois who made Democrats feel superior while losing.

Then there's the ticklish matter of Florida and Michigan. Yes, they broke party rules. (In Florida's case, a GOP legislature made them.) Together, though, they constitute roughly 10 percent of the nation's population. Is it sensible or fair to disenfranchise them?

Both states are crucial to Democratic hopes. With neither candidate campaigning, Clinton prevailed easily in Florida. Likewise, Obama's withdrawal from Michigan may have been tactically clever, given the demographics.

None of these dilemmas have easy or obvious solutions. Anybody who thinks they do may as well go home now.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette columnist Gene Lyons is a national magazine award winner. You can e-mail Lyons at gene.lyons2@sbcglobal.net.



Beware of the little things

YOUR OPINION

To the Editor:

I begin by quoting several philosophers. One of our cooks in the US Army, Mario, would periodically vent his frustrations by crying out "How long, O Lord, will this circus continue?" Another philosopher, the famed Ralph Kramden, berated his soul mate Alice with "It's the little things that kill ya." Finally, surveyor/philosopher Mason said to Dixon, "You have to draw the line somewhere."

All these thoughts converged in my brain the other day after I had the annual inspection performed on one of my five vehicles.

Because of the intricacies involved in the assignment

of zip code 15012, my vehicles are subject to emission inspections. As you may or may not know, not all vehicles located in 15012 are subject to the same criteria. How did the legislative perpetrators of the emission inspection fiasco come up with the idea that the sources of pollution could be assigned by zip code? I leave that to you, dear reader.

My opinion is that the regulations should be applied statewide, regardless of the addresses.

It's bad enough that a state boundary dictates what is required; but when we are looking at one side

of a street as opposed to the other side, how can you say one pollutes and the other doesn't?

That being said, I recalled that we (the taxpayers) paid out something like \$400 million a few years ago for a system of regional emission inspection stations that was promptly aborted. I'm sure the money was recovered for us. The vehicle I had inspected was "exempt" from the emission requirements because it had been driven less than 5,000 miles since last year. Isn't that wonderful?

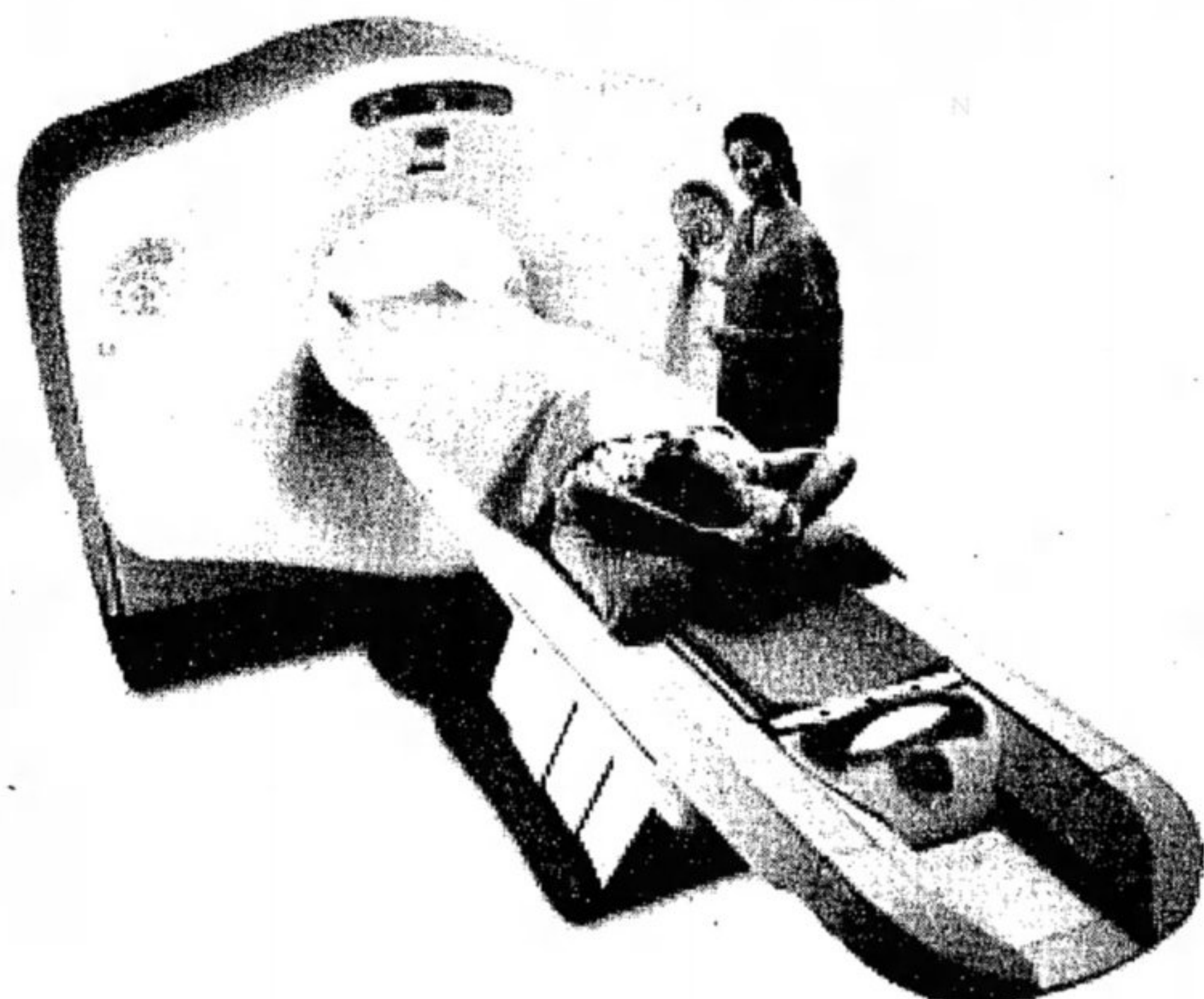
Well, yes, but the sticker that said no sticker was

needed cost me \$15.

Another thing that will warm your heart is that the newer vehicles have an on-board computer that will reveal all the data needed for an emission compliance determination by merely plugging in a device under the dashboard as opposed to the old "up the tailpipe" method. Oops, this newer, faster, simpler method somehow costs more.

I hope that after reading this diatribe you can better understand my prelude of philosophical utterances. The lines have been drawn, the circus continues, and the little things will kill you.

Fred J. Fundy
Belle Vernon



This is Monongahela Valley Hospital's new 64-slice CT scanner.

MVH program will detail new coronary technology

Two physicians will lead the discussion Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

For The Valley Independent

Monongahela Valley Hospital will present the next in a series of community programs lead by physicians next week.

Innovations in CTA - a discussion about computed tomography angiograms using MVH's new 64-slice CT scanner - will be held 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center on the hospital campus.

Dr. R.G. Krishnan and Dr. Vinod Chablani lead the discussion.

According to the American Heart Association, nearly 2,600 Americans die of cardiovascular disease each day - an average of 1 death every 34 seconds.

A coronary CTA is a study of the inside of the tiny heart vessels. It is accomplished without going inside the heart.

"For patients with a family history of heart disease, this program will provide information concerning a non-invasive method to visualize the heart and its vessels," said Patrick J. Alberts, senior vice president and chief operating officer at MVH. "The new 64-slice CT scanner provides the ability to perform virtual cardiac catheterizations."

In cardiology applications, the 64-slice CT scanner can capture images of a beating heart in five heartbeats or other organs in the body in a second and can perform whole body trauma scans in 10 seconds, Alberts said.

This, he added, is "more than twice as fast" as conventional multi-slice CT scanners.

"And it does so without sacrificing clarity," Alberts said. "Its sub-millimeter resolution offers spectacular views of veins and arteries. For physicians, volume coverage means new diagnostic power including the ability to routinely perform non-invasive angiography, rapid tests for Emergency Department stroke and

chest pain and whole body trauma.

Chablani, medical director of radiology services at MVH, also praised the new technology.

"The new CT offers the ability to help clinicians rule out (or in) three of the most life-threatening critical conditions in chest pain in one single scan - aortic dissection, pulmonary embolism and coronary artery disease," he said.

"This enables physicians to make a quick diagnosis and determine the best course of treatment while reducing the number of exams a patient may need to undergo."

Krishnan, a cardiologist on staff at MVH, explained patient benefits of the new equipment.

"We not only have new diagnostic options for the

work-up of a cardiac patient such as virtual cardiac catheterizations but the equipment also provides faster patient exams, less time needed for breath holds - which can mean less stress for the patient," he said.

"It provides easier access and wheelchair access to the patient table because of a lower table height."

The physicians will explain what patients will experience during a coronary CTA exam.

In addition to the physician discussions, a variety of radiologic and cardiologic information will be available at the program.

Refreshments will be served.

Interested area residents can obtain additional information about the program by calling (724) 258-1234.

Also on tap at MVH next week

Monongahela Valley Hospital also will offer the following other programs next week:

Tuesday - Public CPR instructions, 6 p.m., Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center. Adult CPR classes are offered by the hospital in conjunction with Valley Health and Safety Training Center. The \$30 fee is payable to VHSTC and advance registration is required at (724) 684-9536.

Thursday - Carbohydrate Counting, 6 p.m., education conference center. This is a diabetes self-management class that focuses on carbohydrate counting with everything you need to know, including how to measure the upward drive each meal has on blood sugar and information on the glycemic index. For more information or to register, call (724) 258-1148.

Thursday - Infant/Child CPR, 6 p.m., education conference center. Infant/child CPR classes are offered by the hospital in conjunction with Valley Health and Safety Training Center. The \$25 fee is payable to VHSTC and advance registration is required at (724) 684-9536.

Epilepsy hits home

Groups offer "lifelines" when children have seizure disorders.

By LAURA URBANI

For The Valley Independent
lurbani@tribweb.com

"If someone would have said the word 'epilepsy' to me, I wouldn't have known what it meant," said Helen Webb Mucci of Hempfield.

Like most people, Mucci had never thought about the neurological disorder that affects some 3 million Americans.

That changed when her 5-year-old son, Enrico, had his first seizure.

Mucci and her husband, Jeff, easily found a wealth of information about epilepsy, a disorder marked by disturbances in the brain's electrical activity. Clusters of nerve cells signal abnormally, causing events that can range from a momentary blackout to convulsions that go on for minutes.

Books and the Internet offered plenty of facts, but Mucci said they didn't provide the guidance her family craved.

She found comfort in talking with a business client whose son also has epilepsy.

"That was a vital lifeline for me," said Mucci, who works at Webb's Service Center, her family's vehicle repair business. "I want to give that to others. It's not hard to get information about epilepsy, but I think it's nothing (compared) to networking with other parents who are going through these issues."

Support for parents Mucci has worked with the Pittsburgh-based Epilepsy Foundation of Western/Central Pennsylvania to begin parent support groups throughout the region. She will host the Greensburg area group, and other meetings will be held in the Monroeville area and at three other sites in Allegheny County.

"One of the main requests we get is that (callers) want to make connections with another family," said Kathi Finch, director of communications for the Epilepsy Foundation office in Pittsburgh. "The compassion can be there. The willingness to help can be there, but there's that extra level of understanding that can't be bought."

It has been a few years since the foundation sponsored support groups. Now Finch believes it has found the right mix of parents to restart this vital network.

"Over the years they have ebbed and flowed, depending on personalities involved," she said. "Chil-



Enrico Mucci and his mom, Helen, pause for a moment at their Hempfield home. Enrico has a seizure disorder, and his mother will host a support group for families dealing with epilepsy.

dren get older, concerns change and many leave the group. We're hoping that given this great team we've assembled, we will have dynamic groups that will be active for a long time."

Trina Gill of Penn Township jumped at the chance to host the Monroeville area group. Although her daughter has had seizures for less than two years, the child has such a debilitating disorder that Gill feels she has a lot to offer other families.

Severe epilepsy threatened her daughter Lauren, now 7, with irreversible brain damage. Medications were unable to stop the seizures, and instead caused serious side effects. Neurological tests showed that Lauren's brain was under constant siege, experiencing as many as 300 seizures a day.

Gill and her husband, Kevin, watched helplessly as "meditation made their intelligent daughter become aggressive and angry, while seizures kept her from recognizing her ABCs or walking across a room without help."

They finally convinced doctors to place Lauren on a high-fat ketogenic diet - a controversial, carefully monitored eating plan that changes the body's metabolism. And surgeons implanted a vagus nerve stimulator, a device similar to a pacemaker for the brain.

Lauren had the surgery in August and was declared seizure-free in November. She is back to doing first-grade work at Harrison Park Elementary School, and she's once again the sweet little girl her parents

remember.

"It's not amazing," said Gill. "It's a miracle." Mucci understands the frustration of searching for that "miracle pill" that will put an end to epileptic seizures. Enrico has tried seven medications, she said. Eventually, each one failed.

"He usually gets a stretch (of relief) out of them, and then it stops working," said Mucci, whose son is in the process of changing medications again. "Then you deal with 'break-through seizures,' which can be more damaging emotionally than physically."

In addition to its physical toll, epilepsy can be traumatic for a child - and the family suffers, as well.

"When you receive this diagnosis, it completely changes everything," said Mucci.

"There's a lot of dynamics when you have a child with a 'medical' disorder. It changed all of our lives, not just his."

In the Gill and Mucci households, Enrico's and Lauren's welfare must be considered before the families decide to eat in a restaurant, take a vacation or play outdoors. Attending school requires careful planning and training for teachers. Both children have aides that stay with them throughout the day, alert for the onset of a seizure.

"With school, (Enrico) has a crisis plan," said Mucci.

If her son has a seizure, the plan, developed with help from the Arc of Westmoreland, "spells out exactly ... what they are supposed to do from beginning to end," she said.

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INNOVATIONS IN CTA



Wednesday, February 27 at 5:30 p.m.

Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center at Monongahela Valley Hospital

R. G. Krishnan, M.D. and Vinod Chablani, M.D. will present a free community program focusing on new techniques, procedures and equipment in the rapidly expanding fields of radiology and cardiology.

Drs. Chablani and Krishnan will discuss Coronary CTA (a non-invasive virtual cardiac catheterization) using the 64-slice CT scanner.

A variety of radiologic and cardiologic information will be available.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

CALL 724-258-1234 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

MVH Monongahela Valley Hospital
HEALTH CARE

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When submitting photographs and engagement, wedding, birth and anniversary announcements, please include the first and last names of all listed.

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TV LISTINGS

Mom feels helpless watching son waste his life

DEAR ABBY: My son, "Keith," is 20. He lives at home with his dad, brother and me. Keith dropped out of high school when he was a senior. His driver's license was suspended due to non-payment of tickets.

A couple of years ago, he stole from us and finally admitted he had a drug problem. We sent Keith to a 30-day residential drug treatment facility. When he got out, he stayed in a halfway house for three months, then lived with another recovering addict in an apartment. Keith had a job then, but lost it and moved back home.

He still hangs out with his same old friends. He sleeps all day, gets up late in the afternoon or early in the evening, and goes out again.

I know my son drinks, and I realize he's probably

Dear ABBY



using again, too, but I don't know where he gets the money to buy them. He has worked in restaurants off and on over the past two years, but is currently unemployed.

I have tried everything I know to help him. We dragged him to counselors, but Keith wouldn't follow their suggestions. We beg him to get his GED, but he lies to us that he's going to school and working on it. Keith asks me to wake him so I can take him to apply for jobs, but when I do, he refuses to get up.

His dad and I have to hide our wallets because he has stolen our checks and credit cards before. His purchases are usually at gas stations and fast food restaurants. Keith tells us he's not using anymore, but his actions make it hard to believe.

I can't live my life standing idly by, watching my son ruin his life. I love him. If I don't stand by him and try to help him, he has no one. His dad acts like he hates him. He either ignores him or gets on his case whenever he talks to him. Have you any advice for me? — **DEEPLY HURT IN MEMPHIS, TENN.**

DEAR DEEPLY HURT: Your son definitely has problems, and you need to find out what exactly they are. If he's using, you can

find out by making him take a home drug test. ("Take it, or you're out.")

If he tests negative, then it's possible that your son is suffering from depression or some other mental illness. And if that's the case, you should make his getting psychiatric help a condition of his continuing to live at home.

The only thing you cannot do is let yourself be trapped into becoming your son's enabler. You must set a deadline for him to find a job or move out on his own, and insist that he abide by it.

DEAR ABBY: My wife's niece is being married in May. The wedding is 1,500 miles from here. Our daughter, "Sophie," a college sophomore, will be a bridesmaid in the wedding. For the last year and a

half Sophie has been dating "Trey," whom she met at school, and it appears to be a solid relationship. I like him.

Trey received an invitation to the wedding, too, which was unnecessary in my opinion. Now my wife insists it's our responsibility to buy Trey an airplane ticket so he can attend. He will stay in a hotel room with my sons if he goes.

I don't mind paying for the room and related expenses, but I see no reason why I should fork out hundreds of dollars for an airline ticket. I already have to pay for my family of five for this trip. My wife says I'm stingy. Am I? — **GETTING FLAK IN ATLANTA**

DEAR GETTING FLAK: It was nice of your sister-in-law to invite your

daughter's boyfriend to the wedding. If you can afford to buy him a ticket, doing so would be a nice gesture. However, you are under no obligation to foot the bill for his transportation.

(Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.)

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TUESDAY EVENING

MOVIES TALK NEWS KIDS SPORTS

FEB. 19, 2008

	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30	12AM	12:30	1AM	1:30	2AM	2:30
CBS	(2) (7) News (N) / (10) WTJ News at 6 (N)	(7) (10) CBS Evening News With Katie Couric (N)	(2) CBS Evening News-Couric / (2) Entertainment / (10) Inside	(2) The Insider (N) / (7) Inside Edition / (10) Two and a Half Men	NCIS "Requiem" Gibbs agrees to help his daughter's childhood friend.		Big Brother: "Til Death Do You Part" The veto meeting and competition. (N)		Jericho "Condor" Jake and Major Beck prepare to receive a visitor from the Cheyenne government. (N)		(2) (7) News (N) / (10) WTJ News at 11 (N)	Late Show With David Letterman Randy Jackson; Saffron Burrows; Ray Davies. (N)	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson Andre Benjamin. (N)		(2) Extra / (7) The Insider / (10) Everybody Loves Raymond "The Model"	(2) (10) Paid / (7) That '70s Show The gang visits a disco.	(2) Paid / (7) CBS Up to the Minute (N)	
ABC	(4) News (N) / (7) The Insider (N)	ABC's World News With Charles Gibson (N)	(4) Inside Edition / (7) Jeopardy! (N)	(4) Entertainment Tonight / (7) Wheel of Fortune	Just for Laughs Bicycle hits garbage truck. (N)	Just for Laughs A woman passes gas in a gym. (N)	According to Jim Jim and Cheryl plan a tryst. (N)	Carpoolers "Piano Recital" Piano recital invitation. (N)	Boston Legal "Rescue Me" A woman sues a company for displacing her mother's ashes. (N)	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11 (N) / (7) News (N)	Nightline (N)	Jimmy Kimmel Live	(4) Oprah Winfrey / (7) Paid		(4) Paid / (7) Spring (N)	(4) Paid / (7) Spring (N)	(4) Ch. 4 Action News at 11	
NBC	News (N)	NBC Nightly News (N)	(6) Entertainment Tonight (N) / (9) Jeopardy! "Teen Tournament" (N)	(6) Who Wants to Be a Millionaire (N) / (9) Wheel of Fortune (N)	The Biggest Loser: Couples The remaining contestants are sent home to see their loved ones. (N)				Law & Order: Special Victims Unit "Svengali" A college student is found dead in her formalwear.	News (N)	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno Will Ferrell; Hayden Christensen. (N)	Late Night With Conan O'Brien Bill Hader; Jake Shimabukuro. (N)		Last Call With Carson Daly	Poker After Dark Doyle Brunson; Chris Ferguson; Chau Giang; Andy Bloch; Hoyt Corkins; Gabe Kaplan. (N)			
FOX	(8) The Simpsons / (5) Two and a Half Men	(8) That '70s Show / (5) Frasier	(8) The Simpsons / (5) Two and a Half Men	Seinfeld Jerry's dad and Kramer are partners.	American Idol Male singers perform. (N)				(8) News (N) / (5) Channel 11 News on FOX 53 at 10	(8) Seinfeld Jerry and George take a limo ride.	(8) The King of Queens / (5) Seinfeld	(8) Frasier / (5) Scrubs	(8) Twister / (5) Scrubs J.D. fears for his mentor.	(8) Paid	(8) Paid	(8) Paid	(8) Sex and the City "One Carrie's only rendezvous." (N)	(8) Paid / (5) Cheaters
WQED	The Newshour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Nightly Business Report	OnQ Magazine	Nova "Ape Genius" (N)	Frontline "Rules of Engagement" (N)				Independent Lens "Banished" (N)		Charlie Rose From Los Angeles. (N)	OnQ Magazine	Antiques Roadshow "San Antonio, Texas"		American Experience "Kit Carson"			
WPCW	The People's Court (N)	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Reaper "Love, Bullets and Blacktop"	One Tree Hill (N)				The 10 O'Clock News	The Nightly Sports Call	Malcolm in the Middle	According to Jim	That '70s Show	King of the Hill	South Park	Paid	Paid	Paid
WPXI	The Simpsons	Family Guy	The Simpsons	Family Guy	Street Patrol	Street Patrol	Jail (N)	Jail	TMZ (N)	Frasier	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Paid	Paid	Bernie Mac	My Wife-Kids	Half & Half	Half & Half	Half & Half
WPCB	The 700 Club	Focus 4	Focus 4	Focus 4	7th St. Theater	Way Of Master	F4 Generation	Today God	Day-Discovery	Quick Study	Reno 911!	Blind Date	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid	Paid
WBGW	Temptation (N)	Temptation	Degrassi: Next	Reno 911!	The Nanny	Mad Abt. You	★ ★ ★ California (1993)											
AGE	Cold Case Files	CSI: Miami "Dispo Day"	The First 48	The First 48 "Pack of Lies"	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	The First 48	The First 48 "Pack of Lies"	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	The First 48	The First 48 "Pack of Lies"	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars
ABCFAM	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos	Funnest Home Videos
AMC	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)	★ ★ ★ The Godfather (1972)
ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter	Born Different Animal breeding.	Hippo: King of the River	Killer Elephants	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct	Animal Precinct
BBC	Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares	BBC World News America	Last Restaurant Standing (N)	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.
BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live (N)	Hell Date	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.	★ ★ ★ School Daze (1988) Premiere.
BRAVO	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker	The Millionaire Matchmaker
CMT	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos	Home Videos
CNBC	Mad Money	Kudlow & Company	Fast Money ...	Deal or No Deal	The Big Idea With Deutsch	Mad Money	Deal or No Deal	The Big Idea With Deutsch	Mad Money	Deal or No Deal	The Big Idea With Deutsch	Mad Money	Deal or No Deal	The Big Idea With Deutsch	Mad Money	Deal or No Deal	The Big Idea With Deutsch	Mad Money
CNN	The Situation Room	Lou Dobbs Tonight	CHN Election Center	Larry King Live	Anderson Cooper 360	Gabriel Iglesias: Hot and Fluffy	Daily Show	Colbert Report	Capital News Today	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.
COM	★ ★ ★ Madhouse (1990)	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs	Scrubs
CSPAN	House of Representatives	Tonight From Washington	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.
DISC	Cash Cab	Cash Cab	How It's Made	How It's Made	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)	Some Assembly Required	MythBusters Mind control.	Dirty Jobs	Dirty Jobs "Tight Spaces" (N)
DISNEY	Han, Montana	Han, Montana	Zack & Cody	Kim Possible: So the Drama (2005)	That's Raven	Life Derek	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door
E!	Qucollet	Chelsea Lately	El News (N)	The Daily 10	The View: The E! True Hollywood Story	Britney-Siege	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door	Girl Next Door
ESPN	SportsCenter	College Basketball Purdue at Indiana.	College Basketball Georgia at Kentucky.	College Basketball UNC-Greensboro at Davidson.	NBA Coast-to-Coast	Religious	Holy Rosary	Threshold of Hope	Christ in City	Catholic	Daily Mass: Our Lady	Mother Angelica-Classic	Threshold of Hope	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report
ESPN2	UEFA Champs. League Soccer	American Gladiators	Boxing	On the Auction Block (N)	Who's Number 1?	Bull Riding: PRCA	NFL Live (N)	Gamenight	SportsCenter	NFL Live (N)	Gamenight	SportsCenter	NFL Live (N)	Gamenight	SportsCenter	NFL Live (N)	Gamenight	SportsCenter
ESPN2	NASCAR Now	Rome-Burning	College Basketball UNC-Greensboro at Davidson.	NBA Coast-to-Coast	Religious	Holy Rosary	Threshold of Hope	Christ in City	Catholic	Daily Mass: Our Lady	Mother Angelica-Classic	Threshold of Hope	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report
EWTV	Choices-Face	Sri Lanka	Fox Report-Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Factor	You Decide 2008 Wisconsin presidential primary; caucuses.	Hannity & Colmes	Best Damn Sports Show Period	Final Score	NASCAR Now	ESPN The Magazine at 10 (N)	2007 World Series of Poker	Threshold of Hope	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report	Special Report
FNC	Special Report	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals
FOOD	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals	Minute Meals
FSN	Final Score	Savran on SportsBeat	NHL Hockey Florida Panthers at Pittsburgh Penguins.	★ ★ ★ The Transporter 2 (2005) Premiere.	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)	Nip/Tuck "Candy Richards" (N)
FX	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)	★ ★ The Transporter (2002)
GOLF	Golf-Academy	Inside PGA	Tiger's Clinic	Road Trip (N)	The Approach	Golf Central	Big Break VII: Reunion	Family Feud	How Much	Chain Reaction	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	How You See	High Stakes Poker	The Tyra Banks Show	Deutsche Welle News	NightTalk With Ann Devlin
GSN	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	How Much	Chain Reaction	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	How Much	Chain Reaction	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire	How Much	Chain Reaction	Lingo	Whammy	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire
HALL	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Walker, Texas Ranger	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	The Universe the sun.	★ ★ ★ When Brides Cheat (1998)	Live With Don Abrams	Predator Raw: Unseen Tapes	Life of Ryan	Rob & Big (N)	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
HGTV	Small Space	If Walls Could	House Worth? / House Hunters	Designed-Sell	My Kitchen	The Universe the sun.	★ ★ ★ When Brides Cheat (1998)	Live With Don Abrams	Predator Raw: Unseen Tapes	Life of Ryan	Rob & Big (N)	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
HIST	The Private Voice of Hitler	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing	Still Standing
LIFE	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba	Reba
MSNBC	Tucker	True Life Alcohol addiction.	True Life Getting out of prison.	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
MTV	True Life Alcohol addiction.	True Life Getting out of prison.	SpongeBob	Drake & Josh	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez	George Lopez
NICK	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh
OXF	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club	Bad Girls Club
PCN	PCN Tours "Byers' Choice"	PCN Call In "PA Budget"	PA Public Affairs	NightTalk With Ann Devlin	It's Your Call	NightTalk With Ann Devlin	ECW Is Chavo still champion?	Kal Doh Maru	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News	News
PCNC	Lynn Cullen Show Talk show.	Stargate SG-1 "Foothold"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "Foothold"	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
TBS	Friends	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
TCM	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)	★ ★ ★ The Tin Star (1957)
TLC	Property Ladder	Flip That House	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order
TNT	Law & Order "3 Dawg Night"	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order	Law & Order
TOON	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo	Scoby-Doo
TRAVEL	Natural Wonders of Hawaii	Top Ten Natural Wonders	Anthony Bourdain	Bizarre Foods-Zimmerman	World's Wildest	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking	Best Shocking
TRUTV	World's Wildest Police Videos	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops	Cops
TVLAND	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies	Bev. Hillbillies
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Criminal Intent														

Valley SPORTS

1B

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2008

1THEVALLEYINDEPENDENT1

Roster longshot

Doug Mientkiewicz would give the Pirates a strong veteran presence, but he is a longshot to stick with the team. **3B**



Sports Trivia

The Monessen High girls are 3-5 in WPIAL Class A basketball championship games. Who were the losses to? **3B**



Last night's games

New Jersey 5, Carolina 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, San Jose 2
Detroit 4, Colorado 0
Phoenix 4, Los Angeles 0

Brodeur on Mini-Page

New Jersey Devils' goalie Martin Brodeur is featured on today's Mini-Page. **7B**

Brian HERMAN



Special day for Cal U

Today is a special day for the California University football program.

Coach John Luckhardt and four of his players — Brian Mohr, Joe Ruggiero, Tim McCutcheon and Kirby Griffin — are at the Meadows Sports Complex to receive the first Lambert Cup in the school's history as the top NCAA Division II team in the East.

The Vulcans went 13-1 with the loss coming to eventual champion Valdosta State, 28-24, in the national semifinals.

West Virginia was the Division I winner with Delaware getting the Division 1-AA award and Wesley the Division III crown.

WVU won it for the third time and Delaware is adding its 19th Lambert award to its trophy case. Like Cal, Wesley is a first time winner.

To be eligible for the Lambert Meadows Award, a school must be located in the East or play half of its schedule against eligible Lambert teams. The territory includes Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, New England, while teams in the bordering states of Delaware, Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and the District of Columbia qualify if half of their schedule features eligible teams.

■ Two of Luckhardt's newest recruits are Pitt transfers — wide receiver Marcel Pestano and linebacker Greg Webster.

A 6-1, 195 pounder from Florida with one season remaining, Pestano had 43 catches for 614 yards and two touchdowns the last two years for the Panthers.

Pestano's cousin, A.J. Jackson — a 6-5, 220 pounder also from Lehigh Acres, Fla. — could also be catching passes for the Vulcans after transferring from the University of Mississippi. He started his career at the College of Sequoias in Fort Lauderdale.

Three years ago, Webster ended his scholastic career as Woodland High's all-time leading tackler with 304.

Redshirted as a freshman in 2006, the 6-1, 225 pound Webster didn't play the past season after being diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

■ Add Cal: The school's PSAC and Atlantic Regional championship volleyball team will be honored at halftime of the women's basketball game with Shippensburg Wednesday with the gridders getting the same treatment at halftime of the men's game with Ship.

Cal's athletic programs entered the winter ranked fourth in the conference's Dixon Trophy standings with 60 points behind Bloomsburg (69), Edinboro (68 1/2) and Indiana (64 1/2).

Last year the Vulcans came in ninth in the 14-team field with 115 1/2 points.

The points are based on the top six finishes by both the men and women's teams.

■ To B.B. of Belle Vernon: This weekend's WPIAL championship basketball games at Duquesne's A.J. Palumbo Center won't be televised live.

For the third straight year, Comcast will carry the games starting Feb. 25 with its On Demand service.

Friday's tripleheader will start at 5 p.m. with the Class A girls title game followed by the Class A boys and Class AAAA boys.

Tall order for Monessen

Tonight's WPIAL playoff opponent features two six-foot starters.

By BRIAN HERMAN

Sports Editor
bherman@tribweb.com

PITTSBURGH — It's no secret that neither California nor Geibel were big tests for the unbeaten Monessen High girls' basketball team in their first two WPIAL Class A playoff games.

That should change tonight when the second-seeded Lady Greyhounds (25-0) put the longest winning streak in the school's history on the line at 6:30 at Baldwin against third-seed Vincentian Academy (17-8) in the semifinals.

Unlike California and Geibel, which were both at height disadvantages against Monessen, the Royals feature a pair of six-footers in seniors Jacki Cortese and Lindsay Knapp.

Both were starters on last year's team, which lost to North Catholic in the WPIAL title game.

After averaging 16 points in the regular season, Cortese has poured in 55 points in Vincentian's

victories over Avella and Quigley. Cortese had 23 in the 72-34 rout of Avella at West Allegheny and poured in 32 at Chartiers Valley in the 66-53 quarterfinal win over Quigley.

Knapp, meanwhile, is coming off an 11-point performance against Quigley after lighting up Avella for 25 points.

The other starters are 5-7 senior Maria Petrisko, 5-6 senior Nicole Marks and 5-6 junior Lindsay Primyon.

Vincentian coach Ron Moncrief isn't surprised his team is still playing despite finishing third in rugged Section 4 behind top seed North Catholic and Mt. Alvernia.

"We played a tough schedule, which prepared us for the playoffs," said Moncrief.

All the Royals' losses were to playoff teams, including Class AAAA's Norwin, Class AAA's Hampton and Class AA's Sto-Rox.

"We know we're going to have to come ready to play 32 minutes against Monessen," said Moncrief. How does he compare this year's team to last year's finalist?

"This team is more experienced," he said. "Last year they were just happy to get there with wins over

Avonworth and Serra. This year's team is more on a mission."

Although Christina Chukwuedo and Kelly Mornak are considered Monessen's top two stars, Breane Minardi may be playing the key role if Monessen hopes to reach Friday's WPIAL championship game at Duquesne University's A.J. Palumbo Center.

The 5-5 Minardi will have the job of guarding Cortese.

"Minardi shuts people down," said Monessen coach Major Corley.

Although Corley hasn't seen Vincentian play a game, he's not completely in the dark.

"We were in a three-team scrimmage with them at Seton LaSalle before the season," he said. "Our game plan is to rebound and run. We're going to play up-tempo and try to wear their legs down."

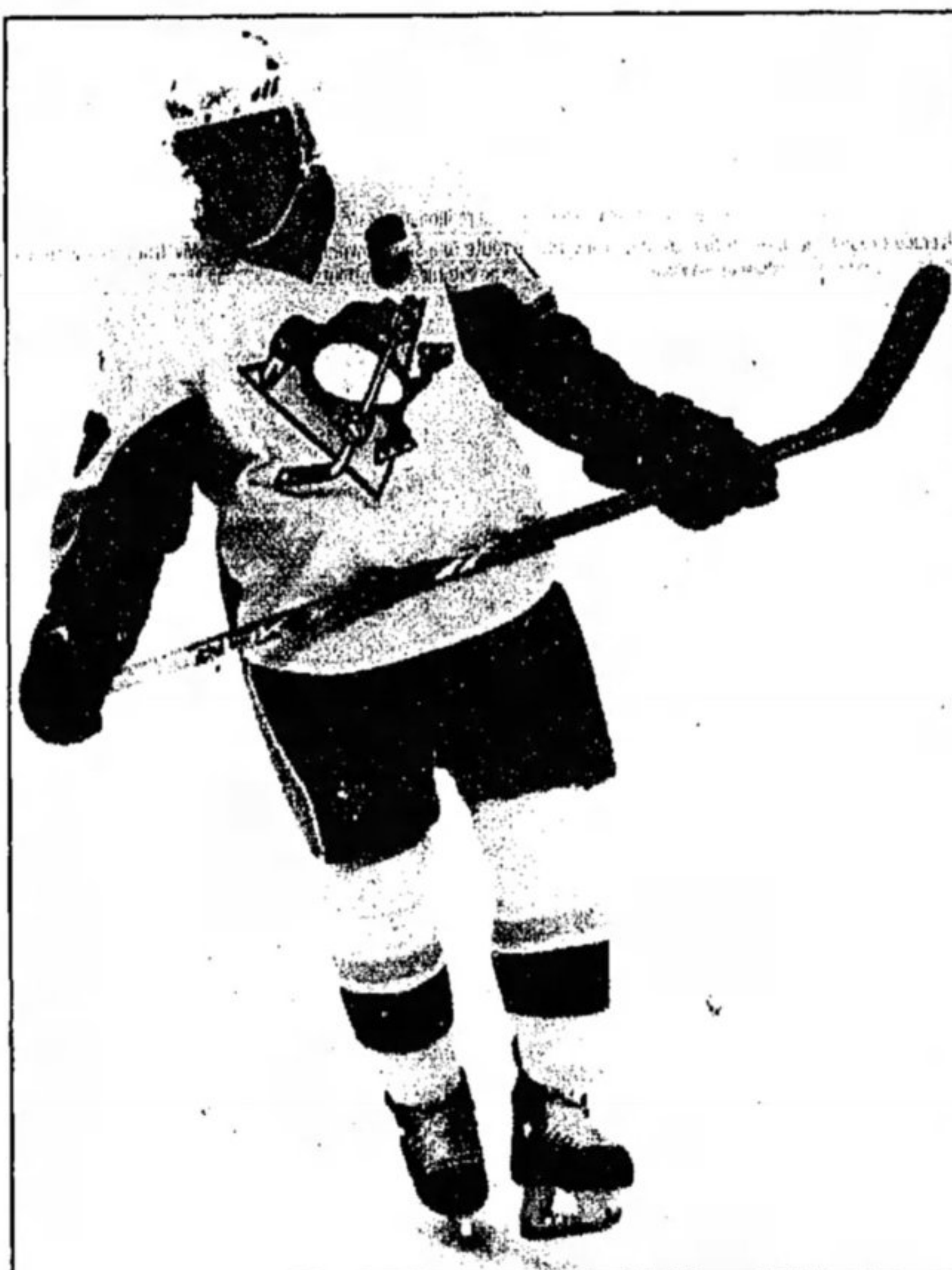
LEFTOVERS: Cortese, Chukwuedo and Mornak are all 1,000 point scorers. Chukwuedo has scored 1,109 points with 854 in two years at Monessen after scoring 255 as a sophomore in Texas. Mornak has 1,067 points ... The second game of tonight's double-header sends McKeesport's boys against Central Catholic in a Class AAAA contest.



Monessen's Breane Minardi will have a tough defensive assignment tonight against Vincentian Academy's Jacki Cortese.

Pittsburgh's Sidney Crosby is slowly rounding back into MVP form, but the team isn't sure when he'll be ready to return to action.

Associated Press



No rush for Crosby

Penguins' star looked good Monday, but his return date is uncertain.

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Sidney Crosby enjoyed his best and most demanding practice since injuring his right ankle, skating at full speed Monday and spinning off several of the gee-whiz passes that only an elite few NHL playmakers can make.

Crosby was without the yellow, no-contact jersey he first wore when he resumed practicing with the Pittsburgh Penguins last week. There was no sign that linemates Ryan Malone and Colby Armstrong were slowing down to accommodate their still-healing teammate.

For now, though, it was only a tease. While Crosby looked to be in game shape, last season's NHL scoring champion and MVP cautioned that he isn't ready to return from his high ankle sprain — and he isn't certain when he will be.

"I'm probably more comfortable on the ice because I've been out there a little bit longer now, but other than that there hasn't been a huge improvement at this point," said Crosby, who said he definitely won't play tonight against Florida. "It's just going to take time."

After Crosby was injured crashing into the boards Jan. 18 against Tampa Bay, doctors estimated that he would be out six to eight weeks. That forecast has not been adjusted,

even though Crosby is practicing much earlier than expected.

"I have expectations of trying to improve every day and hoping it does improve every day, but that's not always the case, especially with this," Crosby said of an injury he acknowledges is painful and long-lasting. "Some days are worse than others."

Crosby needs clearance from team physician Charles Burke before playing — but, as Crosby said, it's really the player's call, because only he knows how he feels.

"You just have to go by feel, and I've tried to educate myself with the way it heals," Crosby said. "I think I'll know when I'm ready as far as what my body tells me."

Crosby, last season's NHL scoring champion and MVP, resumed skating as soon as possible to maintain his conditioning. He said he is pleased that his leg strength has quickly returned.

But Crosby is apparently having problems making the quick stops, cuts and turns that are necessary to play at his accustomed level.

"It's just one of those lingering things," Crosby said. "As long as it (the healing) is not going backward, and I have to miss more time after I come back, that's the main thing for me — as long as the strength's there."

Penguins goalie Marc-Andre Fleury's recovery from the same injury illustrates why Crosby's status remains cloudy. Fleury

(See CROSBY, Page 2B)

Bentworth focused on matchup with Wilkinsburg

The Bearcats are facing the second seeded team in WPIAL's Class A.

By BILL HUGHES

For The Valley Independent

CANONSBURG — When Bentworth takes on Wilkinsburg at Canon-McMillan at 8 p.m. today with a WPIAL Class A title game berth on the line, a surprisingly good practice Monday may be the difference in who wins and who goes home.

Monday practices are usually very sloppy, but if Bentworth's practice yesterday was any indication of things to come, second-seeded Wilkinsburg had better be ready for a focused Bearcat team.

"Aside from it being a Monday practice, things went well," Bentworth coach Bob Kennedy said. "It was better than normal and it is good to have everyone healthy."

"We are looking forward to (today)."

Kennedy has had the chance to see Wilkinsburg, and while the team does not have a standout star, he has been impressed.

"I saw them against Cornell and against Serra," he said. "They are very athletic and very aggressive."

According to Kennedy, they will have to keep an eye on 6-3 junior Cliff Staten.

"He is probably their best shooter," Kennedy said of the southpaw. "He is the one who caught my attention."

Jon Kennedy, who plays for his dad along with twin brother Joe, averages more than 21 points per game and will be a major factor in the contest.

"Jon plays for big games," the elder Kennedy said. "When he gets that look in pre-game, we know that we will get a game out of him."

Wilkinsburg likes to play a 2-3 zone, and Kennedy expects to see it tonight.

"They play it aggressively and they look to trap," he said. "We are going to have to control the tempo and to beat them, I feel you have to have a disciplined running attack."

"We have that."

When Kennedy watched Wilkinsburg lose to Serra 64-57, he didn't see the Serra team that swept the season series against the Bearcats.

"When they played each other, Serra had just won the PIAA football title and that wasn't the true Serra team," he said.

Bentworth, which is known for its pressing defense, will attempt to throw different looks at the Tigers.

"We have enough weapons in our presses to keep

(See BENTWORTH, Page 2B)



Bob Kennedy

SPORTS

High school basketball playoffs

Boys

Class AAAA

Semifinals

Today

At North Allegheny

8 p.m. - Moon (19-6) vs Norwin (20-6)

At Baldwin

8 p.m. - Central Catholic (21-4) vs McKeesport (19-3)

Class AAA

Semifinals

Wednesday

At North Allegheny

8 p.m. - Chartiers Valley (24-2) vs Blackhawk (21-5)

At Fox Chapel

8 p.m. - Hopewell (20-5) vs Greensburg Salem (21-5)

Class AA

Semifinals

Wednesday

At Chartiers Valley

8 p.m. - Beaver Falls (21-3) vs North Catholic (23-2)

At Gateway

8 p.m. - Jeannette (18-4) vs Canevin (15-12)

Class A

Semifinals

Today

At Chartiers Valley

8 p.m. - Union (16-6) vs Serra (23-2)

At Canon-McMillan

8 p.m. - Bentworth (17-7) vs Wilksburg (14-10)

Girls

Class AAAA

Semifinals

Today

At Chartiers Valley

6:30 p.m. - Upper St. Clair (20-5) vs Oakland Catholic (16-10)

At Canon-McMillan

6:30 p.m. - Peters Township (19-7) vs Mt. Lebanon (24-2)

Class AAA

Semifinals

Wednesday

At Gateway

6:30 p.m. - Hampton (24-2) vs Indiana (23-2)

At North Allegheny

6:30 p.m. - West Milford (23-3) vs Chartiers Valley (20-6)

Class AA

Semifinals

Wednesday

At Fox Chapel

6:30 p.m. - Sacred Heart (24-1) vs Ford City (20-6)

At Chartiers Valley

6 p.m. - Washington (24-1) vs South Park (19-8)

Class A

Semifinals

Today

At Baldwin

6:30 p.m. - Monessen (25-0) vs Vincentian Academy (17-8)

At North Allegheny

6:30 p.m. - Mt. Alvernia (15-8) vs Avonworth (14-9)



Nathan Horton and the Florida Panthers will face the Penguins at 7:30 p.m.

Sports dial

- Today
- Television
- 7 p.m. - ESPN - Purdue at Indiana, college basketball.
- 7 p.m. - ESPN2 - UNC Greensboro at Davidson, college basketball.
- 7:30 p.m. - Fox Sports - Florida at Pittsburgh, hockey.
- 8 p.m. - Versus - Chicago at St. Louis, hockey.
- 9 p.m. - ESPN - Georgia at Kentucky, college basketball.
- 10 p.m. - Versus - Tour of California, cycling.
- Radio
- 7:30 p.m. - WXDX (105.9 FM) - Florida at Pittsburgh, hockey.
- 8 p.m. - WJPA (95.3 FM) - Bentworth vs Wilksburg, high school basketball.
- 8 p.m. - WBGG (97.0) - Central Catholic vs McKeesport, high school basketball.

Men's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 17, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote, and previous ranking:

	W	L	Pts	Pvs
1. Memphis (72)	25-0	1,800	1	
2. Tennessee	23-2	1,699	4	
3. North Carolina	24-2	1,592	5	
4. Kansas	24-2	1,567	3	
5. Duke	22-2	1,519	2	
6. UCLA	22-3	1,498	6	
7. Texas	21-4	1,310	11	
8. Butler	24-2	1,228	9	
9. Stanford	21-4	1,156	7	
10. Xavier	21-4	1,122	12	
11. Wisconsin	21-4	1,033	15	
12. Georgetown	20-4	989	8	
13. Connecticut	20-5	925	17	
14. Purdue	21-5	877	19	
15. Indiana	21-4	796	13	
16. Drake	23-2	612	14	
17. Washington St.	20-5	581	21	
18. Louisville	20-6	543	23	
19. Michigan St.	20-5	503	10	
20. Vanderbilt	22-4	432	24	
21. Notre Dame	19-5	361	20	
22. Texas A&M	20-5	345	16	
23. Saint Mary's	22-3	302	25	
24. Kansas St.	18-6	247	18	
25. Marquette	18-6	178	—	
Others receiving votes: Pittsburgh 59, BYU 43, Clemson 39, Gonzaga 18, Arizona 8, Mississippi St. 7, Rhode Island 6, Kent St. 3, Stephen F. Austin 2, Cornell 1, W. Kentucky 1.				

Women's basketball Top 25

The Top 25 teams in The Associated Press women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 17:

	W	L	Pts	Pvs
1. Connecticut (38)	24-1	1,230	2	
2. N. Carolina (2)	24-2	1,167	3	
3. Tennessee (1)	23-2	1,106	1	
4. Maryland	27-2	1,089	4	
5. Rutgers(8)	20-4	1,071	5	
6. LSU(1)	22-3	1,028	7	
7. Stanford	24-3	1,003	6	
8. California	23-3	886	9	
9. Baylor	22-3	846	8	
10. Old Dominion	22-3	730	13	
11. Oklahoma	18-5	726	10	
12. Duke	19-7	661	12	
13. West Virginia	20-4	657	11	
14. Notre Dame	20-5	640	16	
15. Kansas St.	18-6	565	17	
16. Oklahoma St.	20-4	441	15	
17. G. Washington	20-5	417	14	
18. Utah	21-3	401	19	
19. UTEP	21-2	244	24	
20. Ohio St.	18-6	243	23	
21. Texas A&M	18-7	235	20	
22. Syracuse	19-5	176	21	
23. Pittsburgh	18-7	146	18	
24. Georgia	19-7	107	—	
25. Vanderbilt	19-7	92	25	
Others receiving votes: Wyoming 87, Virginia 74, Marist 56, Louisville 29, Liberty 24, DePaul 21, Iowa 17, Arizona St. 10, Hartford 6, Michigan St. 6, Chattanooga 4, Illinois St. 3, Nebraska 3, Iowa St. 1, Purdue 1, Texas 1.				

Billiards

Donors Men's Pool League

- Playoffs
- Firemen 11, St. Mary's 6
- American Legion 13, French Club 4
- Eagles 16, Ukrainian Club 1
- Hoot Owls 11, St. Dominic's 6
- Rusin Club 9, Hungarian Club 8
- Today
- Hoot Owls at St. Mary's
- St. Dominic's at Ukrainian Club
- Thursday
- St. Mary's at Hoot Owls
- Ukrainian Club at St. Dominic's

Latest Line

NBA

Favorite	Points	Underdog
WASHINGTON	6	New York
Houston	1	CLEVELAND
DETROIT	7	Orlando
Philadelphia	2 1/2	MINNESOTA
SAN ANTONIO	10 1/2	Charlotte
DENVER	2	Boston
UTAH	6 1/2	Golden State
PORTLAND	3 1/2	Sacramento
SEATTLE	5	Memphis
a-LA LAKERS	No Line	Atlanta
a-Lakers Kobe Bryant is questionable.		

College Basketball

Favorite	Points	Underdog
INDIANA	4 1/2	Purdue
CONNECTICUT	13	DePaul
Kent State	8 1/2	BUFFALO
OHIO	13	Bowling Green
Clemson	4 1/2	FLORIDA STATE
INDIANA ST	5 1/2	Wichita State
MIAMI-OHIO	5	Akron
OKLAHOMA	4 1/2	Baylor
DRAKE	7	Bradley
IOWA	10	Northwestern
San Diego St	2	WYOMING
KENTUCKY	6 1/2	Georgia
CREIGHTON	7 1/2	Missouri State
DAWSON	14 1/2	NC Greensboro

NHL

Favorite	Goals	Underdog
CAROLINA	Even-1/2	Boston
OTTAWA	1/2-1	Philadelphia
TORONTO	Even-1/2	Columbus
MONTREAL	Even-1/2	NY Rangers
PITTSBURGH	1/2-1	Florida
MINNESOTA	1/2-1	Vancouver
NASHVILLE	1/2-1	Edmonton
ST. LOUIS	Even-1/2	Chicago
PHOENIX	Even-1/2	Calgary
HOME TEAM IN CAPS		

NBA standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	41	9	.820	—
Toronto	28	23	.549	13 1/2
New Jersey	23	30	.434	19 1/2
Philadelphia	23	30	.434	19 1/2
New York	15	37	.288	27

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	33	21	.611	—
Washington	25	27	.481	7
Atlanta	21	28	.429	9 1/2
Charlotte	19	34	.358	13 1/2
Miami	9	42	.176	22 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	39	13	.750	—
Cleveland	29	23	.558	10
Chicago	21	31	.404	18
Indiana	21	32	.396	18 1/2
Milwaukee	19	34	.358	20 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Orleans	36	15	.706	—
San Antonio	34	17	.667	2
Dallas	35	18	.660	2
Houston	32	20	.615	4 1/2
Memphis	14	38	.269	22 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	34	19	.642	—
Denver	32	20	.615	1 1/2
Portland	28	24	.538	5 1/2
Seattle	13	38	.255	20
Minnesota	10	41	.196	23

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	37	16	.698	—
L.A. Lakers	35	17	.673	1 1/2
Golden State	32	20	.615	4 1/2
Sacramento	23	28	.451	13
L.A. Clippers	17	33	.340	18 1/2

Monday's Games

No games scheduled

Today's Games

New York at Washington, 7 p.m.

Houston at Cleveland, 7 p.m.

Orlando at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

Charlotte at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.

Boston at Denver, 9 p.m.

Golden State at Utah, 9 p.m.

Memphis at Seattle, 10 p.m.

Sacramento at Portland, 10 p.m.

Atlanta at L.A. Lakers, 10:30 p.m.

College basketball

MEN

EAST

Fairfield 87, Marist 85, 20T

Georgetown 68, Providence 58

Iona 57, Canisius 52

La Salle 90, Saint Joseph's 89

Loyola, Md. 73, Rider 68

Manhattan 73, Siena 72

Monmouth, N.J. 66, Fairleigh Dickinson 58

Niagara 71, St. Peter's 69

Xiavier 81, Rhode Island 77

SOUTH

Alcorn St. 62, Ark.-Pine Bluff 56

Charleston Southern 87, Liberty 82

Coastal Carolina 56, High Point 55

Coppin St. 69, Florida A&M 68

Delaware St. 70, N. Carolina A&T 66

Furman 67, Wofford 61

Hampton 67, Winston-Salem 62

Longwood 96, N.J. Tech 78

Louisville 61, Syracuse 50

MVSU 52, Southern U. 51

Morgan St. 63, Bethune-Cookman 52

Norfolk St. 68, Md.-Eastern Shore 61

S. Carolina St. 74, Howard 61

Tennessee St. 73, Austin Peay 69

SOUTHWEST

Jackson St. 79, Texas Southern 64

Prairie View 88, Grambling St. 78

Texas 77, Texas A&M 50

FAR WEST

Gonzaga 59, San Diego 55

Saint Mary's, Calif. 100, Pepperdine 64

San Francisco 73, Portland 60

San Jose St. 70, Utah St. 67

Santa Clara 66, Loyola Marymount 46

WOMEN

EAST

Boston College 62, Georgia Tech 53

Fairfield 68, St. Peter's 63

Fairleigh Dickinson 75, Monmouth, N.J. 54

Loyola, Md. 63, Siena 56, OT

Quinnipiac 65, Long Island U. 61

Robert Morris 68, Conn. Connecticut St. 56

Sacred Heart 53, Wagner 49

St. Francis, NY 53, St. Francis, Pa. 39

SOUTH

Ark.-Pine Bluff 74, Alcorn St. 64

Chattanooga 85, Wofford 63

Coppin St. 85, Florida A&M 64

Davidson 68, Elon 54

ETSU 102, Belmont 59

Florida Gulf Coast 74, Mercer 67

Hampton 65, Winston-Salem 41

Liberty 99, Charleston Southern 42

Md.-Eastern Shore 84, Norfolk St. 65

Morgan St. 55, Bethune-Cookman 50, OT

N. Carolina A&T 78, Delaware St. 53

Radford 76, Coastal Carolina 58

S. Carolina St. 106, Howard 78

S.C.-Upstate 69, Lipscomb 53

Southern U. 59, MVSU 53

Stetson 55, Kennesaw St. 54

W. Carolina 93, Furman 84, 20T

MIDWEST

IUPUI 97, Centenary 45

N. Dakota St. 94, UMKC 81

Ohio St. 72, Purdue 56

 W. Illinois 54, Oral Roberts 51 | Wisconsin 79, Northwestern 65 | SOUTHWEST | Jackson St. 51, Texas Southern 48 | Prairie View 77, Grambling St. 47 | Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 60, Texas-Pan American 57 | FAR WEST | S. Dakota St. 82, S. Utah 36 |

Fight schedule

Friday

At Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (ESPN2), Richard Gutierrez, Colombia, vs. Miguel Angel Vasquez, Mexico, 10, welterweights; Yuriorkis Gamboa, Cuba, vs. Johnnie Edwards, Florence, S.C., 10, junior lightweight

At Morongo Casino Resort & Spa, Cabazon, Calif., Enrique Ornelas, Mexico, vs. Norberto Bravo, Tucson, Ariz., 12, for Ornelas' NABF middleweight title; Nestor Rocco, Montebello, Calif., vs. Javier CINTRON, Puerto Rico, 10, bantamweights.

Saturday

At Madison Square Garden, New York (HBO), Wladimir Klitschko, Ukraine, vs. Sultan Ibragimov, Russia, 12, IBF/WBO heavyweight unification; John Duddy, Ireland, vs. Michi Munoz, Topeka, Kan., 10, middleweights; Joe Greene, New York, vs. Peter Quillin, New York, 10, middleweights.

Pitt men tumble out of Top 25

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The weekly AP college basketball poll was missing a familiar name Monday: the University of Pittsburgh. The Panthers, ranked in 43 consecutive polls since December 2005, dropped out of the Top 25 following Friday's 72-54 loss at Marquette, now No. 25. The loss was Pitt's worst in a Big East regular-season game in seven years, or since an 84-64 defeat at Rutgers on Feb. 11, 2001. Pitt has been ranked as high as No. 6 this season, following its upset win over then-No. 6 Duke on Dec. 20 in Madison Square Garden. The Panthers (19-6, 7-5 Big East) have lost four of their last eight games and face a difficult closing stretch as they try to position themselves for the

Big East tournament. They play Thursday at No. 21 Notre Dame (19-5, 9-3), then take on No. 18 Louisville (20-6, 10-3) at home Sunday. The Panthers finish regular-season play with games at Syracuse (17-9, 7-6) and West Virginia (18-7, 7-5) and home games against Cincinnati (12-12, 7-5) and DePaul (10-14, 7-5). Since the 2001-02 season, Pitt has appeared in six consecutive NCAA tournaments and all but one Big East tournament championship game. Pitt's women's team remained in the Top 25, dropping from No. 18 to No. 23, despite losing to nationally ranked West Virginia, Notre Dame and Connecticut by a combined 62 points last week.

Crosby (FROM PAGE ONE)

injured his right ankle Dec. 6 and only now appears to be close to returning. Fleury, a 40-game winner last season, allowed only two goals on 58 shots during two rehabilitation starts for Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AHL) last week and was to make a third start Monday in Binghamton. He could be ready to play for Pittsburgh as early as Thursday in Montreal. However, there is no sense of urgency on the Penguins' part to rush Fleury back. Ty Conklin, who was in the minors until December, has a 15-4-3 record since Fleury was hurt and his .932 save percentage led the NHL through Sunday's games. "Nothing has changed for us," coach Michel Therrien said. "Performance dictates ice time and that's not going to change." Conklin played one of his strongest games of the season Sunday, turning aside 36 of 37 shots during Pittsburgh's 4-1 victory in Buffalo

Fleury may play again Wednesday and, if necessary, Friday for Wilkes-Barre, Therrien said. But with Pittsburgh playing four games in six days beginning Tuesday, it seems likely Fleury will start one of those games. Similarly, Crosby is under no pressure to rush back prematurely, since the Penguins are 7-4-2 without him and trail Atlantic Division leader New Jersey by only two points. With Crosby out, Evgeni Malkin not only has assumed the role of team leader and leading scorer, he is making a push for the NHL scoring title. Malkin has 11 goals and 14 assists for 25 points in 13 games, including seven multiple-point games. "Right now it's a little bit easier because we're winning," Crosby said. "You don't want to base it too much on that (the standings), and we haven't been faced with that scenario yet. ... To see them doing well, that's the biggest thing for me."

Bentworth (FROM PAGE ONE)

them confused," Kennedy said. "We want them to have to think basketball instead of playing it." To make it to the semifinals, the 11th-seeded Bearcats had to defeat sixth-seeded Sewickley Academy in overtime, 74-68, and California, 59-43. Meanwhile, Wilksburg downed Cornell, 57-46, and Monaca, 54-37. The winner will be one step away from having a chance to end a long title drought at its school.

While Bentworth has never won a title, Bentleyville-Ellsworth captured the WPIAL Class B title in 1963. Wilksburg, on the other hand, will look to end an 86-year title drought as it won the WPIAL Class C title in 1913 and 1922. "No Bentworth team has made a title game since 1987 (a loss to Wilmington)," Kennedy said. "This group won't lose. If a team is going to win, they will have to beat us."

PSAC standings

Men

Western Division

	W	L	Overall
California	8	0	18 4
Edinboro	8	1	18 5
Clarion	5	4	13 10
Indiana	4	4	12 11
Slippery Rock	3	5	6 17
Lock Haven	2	7	2 21
Shippensburg	0	9	6 18

Eastern Division

	W	L	Overall
Cheyney	8	1	16 7
Kutztown	8	1	16 7
Millersville	6	2	17 6
East Stroudsburg	3	5	15 8
Mansfield	3	6	15 9
West Chester	2	6	11 12
Bloomsburg	0	9	8 15

Today

Salem International at California (7 p.m.)

PS-Greater Allegheny at Edinboro

Wednesday

Shippensburg at California (8 p.m.)

Indiana at Slippery Rock

Clarion at Lock Haven

East Stroudsburg at Bloomsburg

Cheyney at West Chester

Kutztown at Millersville

Women

Western Division

	W	L	Overall
Indiana	7	1	22 2
Clarion	6	3	16 7
California	5	3	18 5
Shippensburg	5	4	17 7
Edinboro	4	5	14 9
Lock Haven	2	7	7 16
Slippery Rock	1	7	7 16

Eastern Division

	W	L	Overall
Millersville	8	0	19 4
West Chester	6	2	15 8
Cheyney	6	3	10 13
Kutztown	4	5	11 13
East Stroudsburg	3	5	9 13
Bloomsburg	2	7	7 17
Mansfield	1	8	6 18

Wednesday

Shippensburg at California (6 p.m.)

Indiana at Slippery Rock

Clarion at Lock Haven

East Stroudsburg at Bloomsburg

Cheyney at West Chester

Kutztown at Millersville

Bowling results

Charlertoi Lanes

New Eagle League

Standings

Ponce's Place, 43-22; Monongahela Fire Department, 43-25; A.T. Koury Roofing and Maroadi Transcar & Storage, 42-26; Hoot Owls, 38-27; Hey Andy, 35-32; Charlertoi Lanes, 34-30; Yoceliano Distributing, 27-37; Eck's Restaurant & Lounge, 24-39; Bill Hermann's Landscaping, 13-51.

High scores

Terry Foster, 237-589; Kenny Louttit, 226-565; Sam Rice Jr., 224-641; Jim Gavaghan, 210-576; Ryan Lorenzi, 203-495; Rob Hetzler, 202-531; Ryan Gaydos, 202-521; David A. Speers, 188-532; Chuck Patterson, 185-520; Bob Burket, 185-477.

Billiards

Donors Men's Pool League

Playoffs

Firemen 11, St. Mary's 6

American Legion 13, French Club 4

Eagles 16, Ukrainian Club 1

Hoot Owls 11, St. Dominic's 6

Rusin Club 9, Hungarian Club 8

Today

Hoot Owls at St. Mary's

St. Dominic's at Ukrainian Club

Thursday

St. Mary's at Hoot Owls

Ukrainian Club at St. Dominic's

SPORTS

Yankees welcome Pettitte back

Pitcher ready to put offseason of turmoil behind him.

By RONALD BLUM
AP Baseball Writer

TAMPA, Fla. — Andy Pettitte had finished 55 1/2 minutes of apologies, explaining why he used human growth hormone and why he said what he did about Roger Clemens.

Derek Jeter walked over, and the captain wrapped his arms around the visibly relieved Pettitte.

Following an offseason of turmoil, Pettitte was welcomed back to the New York Yankees with open arms.

"My boys are hanging out over there," Pettitte said Monday after arriving at his news conference Monday and unexpectedly seeing Jeter, Jorge Posada and Mariano Rivera off to his right, sitting in a row.

Whether Pettitte can repair his relationship with Clemens remains to be seen. They haven't spoken in more than a month, since Pettitte corroborated allegations of drug use against the seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

"Obviously it's put a strain, I think, on our friendship," Pettitte said. "I love him like a brother."

On the day he reported to

spring training, Pettitte faced reporters for the first time since the Mitchell Report was released in December and revealed accusations he had used HGH.

"I felt like I need to come out, be forward with this," Pettitte said. "Whatever circumstances or repercussions come with it, I'll take and I'll take like a man and I'll try to do my job."

Other athletes have ducked tough questions about allegations of drug use, using evasions and nonspecific replies. Pettitte admitted his mistakes and several times patiently asked reporters, "Did I answer your question?"

Flanked by manager Joe Girardi and general manager Brian Cashman, Pettitte had a hint of the shadow on his face that he's shown on the mound during so many postseason games. He seemed skittish at the start as he read from notes.

"I want to apologize to the New York Yankees' and to the Houston Astros' organizations and to their fans and to all my teammates and to all of baseball fans for the embarrassment I have caused them," he said. "I also want to tell anyone that is an Andy Pettitte fan I am sorry, especially any kids that might look up to me."

He said he was a "nervous wreck" and "scared to death" before the news conference, held under a tent behind the third-base side of Legends Field. He relaxed after a few minutes and went into greater detail than most athletes have about their transgressions.

Middle school champions



The California Middle School basketball team won the section title with a 10-0 record and finished 19-1 overall. Team members include bottom row, from left, Jake Angelo, Mike Hamilton, Colt Stewart, Tanner Huffman, Travis Leyda, Mike McKula, Nickolai Macosta and Evan Patterson and back row, from left, Jake Evans, Dave Trozzo, Jordan Wolford, Skyler Dickinson, Jaisen Irwin, Brian Fisher, Naz Victoria, TD Conway, Patrick Tunney, Matt Bakewell and Zane Myrick. The team was coached by Greg Martik and Josh Kanalis.

Mientkiewicz longshot for Bucs

BRADENTON, Fla. (AP) — First baseman Doug Mientkiewicz sounds pumped up enough to be in Pirates camp that optimistic fans might imagine him catching the final out of the World Series for Pittsburgh, as he did for the Boston Red Sox in 2004.

What would he do with the ball in that happened?

"I'm giving it back," he said. "I'm never going through that again."

Mientkiewicz was embroiled in a months-long dispute with the Red Sox over ownership of the ball that ended Boston's 86-year run without a World Series title. The parties finally agreed the following spring to send it to the Hall of Fame.

But given the Pirates' recent history, chances are that Mientkiewicz will have no such headache with his new team.

For one, Pittsburgh is coming off a 68-94 season that marked its 15th year in a row below .500.

For another, he is viewed by management as a long shot to make the roster because he is a left-handed bench player and a first baseman on a team that already has both, in Adam LaRoche and Ryan Doumit, respectively.

The Pirates have told Mientkiewicz, a Gold Glove first baseman who has spent all but six games of his 10-year major-league career at that position, that he must demonstrate versatility. He will play second and third base, as well as the corner outfield positions.

He played all of those positions plus catcher in the minors, but he acknowledged his refresher course will be a challenge.

"At some point in your career, you're going to have to make a club this way," Mientkiewicz said. "I know with Adam LaRoche here, with Jason Bay, with Xavier Nady, that those guys are going to play. But I know I can back those guys up."

Mientkiewicz, 33, was released by the New York Yankees after batting .277 and being limited to 72 games because of a broken wrist.

Mientkiewicz was signed last week to a minor-league contract that would pay him \$750,000 if he makes the 25-man roster. If he doesn't make it, he'll be a free agent again.

"If Doug is able to move around the diamond, he'll make our decisions very interesting at the end of camp," general manager Neal Huntington said.

New Pirates manager John Russell managed Mientkiewicz in two of his first three years in the Minnesota Twins' system.

"He understands, with LaRoche there, he's going to have to do some different things," Russell said. "He's up for it."

Mientkiewicz also seems up for motivating a group of Pirates who long have lacked a winning environment.

SPORTS DIGEST

Junior Penguins sweep in Philadelphia

The Pittsburgh Junior Penguins continue to be one of the hottest teams in the Continental Hockey Association with a 30-game unbeaten streak and a No. 9 national ranking.

The Pens (28-1-3) won four weekend games in Philadelphia over the Patriots.

Carroll Township's Mike Puskar had two goals and three assists and Belle Vernon's Ryan Homanics picked up one of the victories, allowing one goal and stopping 19 shots. Puskar is 13th in the CHA scoring race while Homanics is the league's sixth ranked goalie.

The Junior Penguins need one win to clinch the CHA's title and a victory against the Frederick Freeze this weekend will give the team an automatic berth to the USA Hockey Junior Nationals in Marlborough, Mass.

National Pike Umpires to meet Feb. 27

The National Pike Umpires will meet Feb. 27 at 6 p.m. at the Young Men's Club in California.

Umpires ages 16 and over are needed for youth leagues ages 7 to 14.

Those wanting more information should call (724) 632-6844.

Tumpkin to coach Pitt linebackers

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Joe Tumpkin, who coached the past three seasons with new Pitt defensive coordinator Phil Bennett, was hired Monday as the Panthers' linebackers coach.

Tumpkin previously was the linebackers coach at SMU, where Bennett was the head coach until being let go during a 1-11 season last year. Tumpkin replaces Charlie Partridge, who resigned two weeks ago to become an assistant at Wisconsin.

Pitt coach Dave Wannstedt said Tumpkin will also work with the special teams.

A former player at Michigan Tech, Tumpkin previously coached at Sam Houston State, Lakeland College and Southern Illinois.

Bears release Muhammad, Miller

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bears released former Pro Bowl wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad, cutting the veteran after three seasons.

He caught 40 passes for 570 yards and three touchdowns as the Bears went 7-9 last season, and given his age — he turns 35 in May — the move wasn't shocking.

Chicago also gave defensive end Alex Brown a two-year contract extension,

declined a \$5.2 million option on defensive tackle Darwin Walker, and released veteran offensive tackle Fred Miller.

Memphis stays No. 1, Tennessee second

NEW YORK (AP) — Memphis survived its closest game of the season to remain the lone unbeaten and a unanimous No. 1 in The Associated Press' latest men's college basketball poll.

Losses by Duke and Kansas last week allowed Tennessee to make the jump from fourth to No. 2.

Memphis received all 72 first-place votes and 1,800 points from the national media panel to be No. 1 for a fifth straight week, the last three unanimously. Tennessee had 1,699 points to reach the highest ranking in school history.

North Carolina (24-2), which has managed to go 3-1 without injured point guard Ty Lawson, moved up two spots to third, while Kansas (24-2) dropped one place to fourth. Duke (22-2) dropped from second to fifth and was followed by UCLA, Texas, Butler, Stanford and Xavier.

Connecticut women regain No. 1 spot

NEW YORK (AP) — Connecticut regained the top spot in The Associated Press women's basketball poll after receiving 38 of the 50 first-place votes. The Huskies had been No. 1 for seven straight weeks before falling to No. 2 last week.

Tennessee, meanwhile, lost its grip on No. 1 and fell to No. 3 following a home loss to LSU on Thursday. North Carolina, with two first places votes, moved up to No. 2 after beating Virginia and Florida State.

Maryland and Rutgers remained fourth and fifth. The Scarlet Knights received eight first-place votes — the most they've ever received — while other voters ranked them as low as eighth.

Betting scandal hits tennis

LONDON (AP) — Italian player Giorgio Galimberti was found guilty of betting on tennis and was suspended for 100 days and fined \$35,000. The ATP said Galimberti bet on tennis from June 2003 to January 2006 but did not specify if he bet on his own matches. Galimberti is the fourth Italian player to be suspended for betting. Late last year, Potito Starace, Daniele Bracciali and Alessio Di Mauro were found guilty of gambling on matches involving other players.

Trivia answer

Avonworth, Vincentian, Mt. Alvernia, Clairton and Serra.

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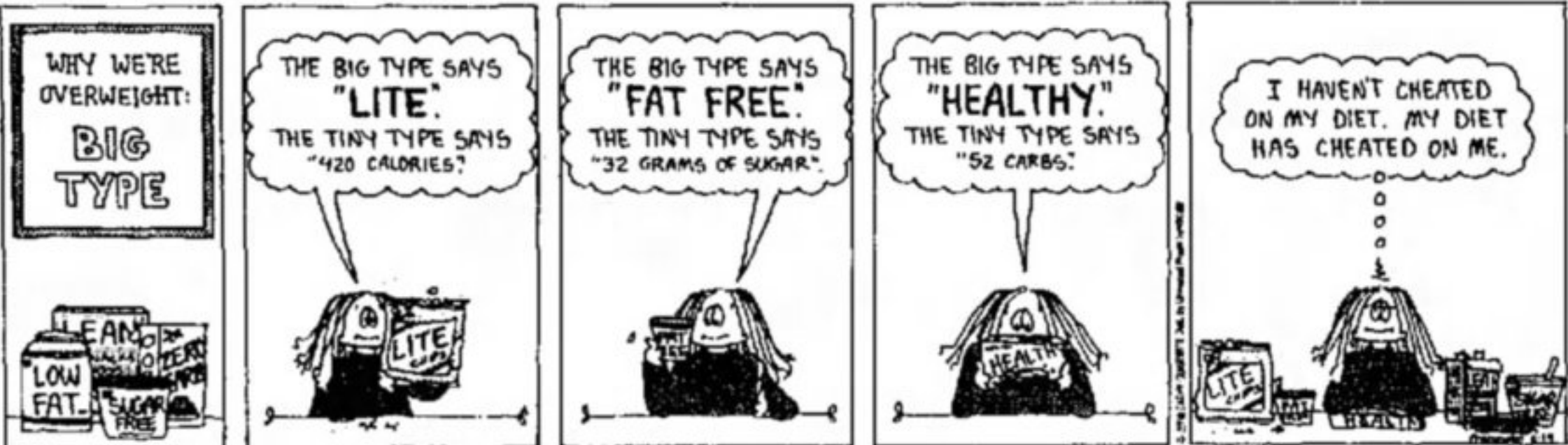
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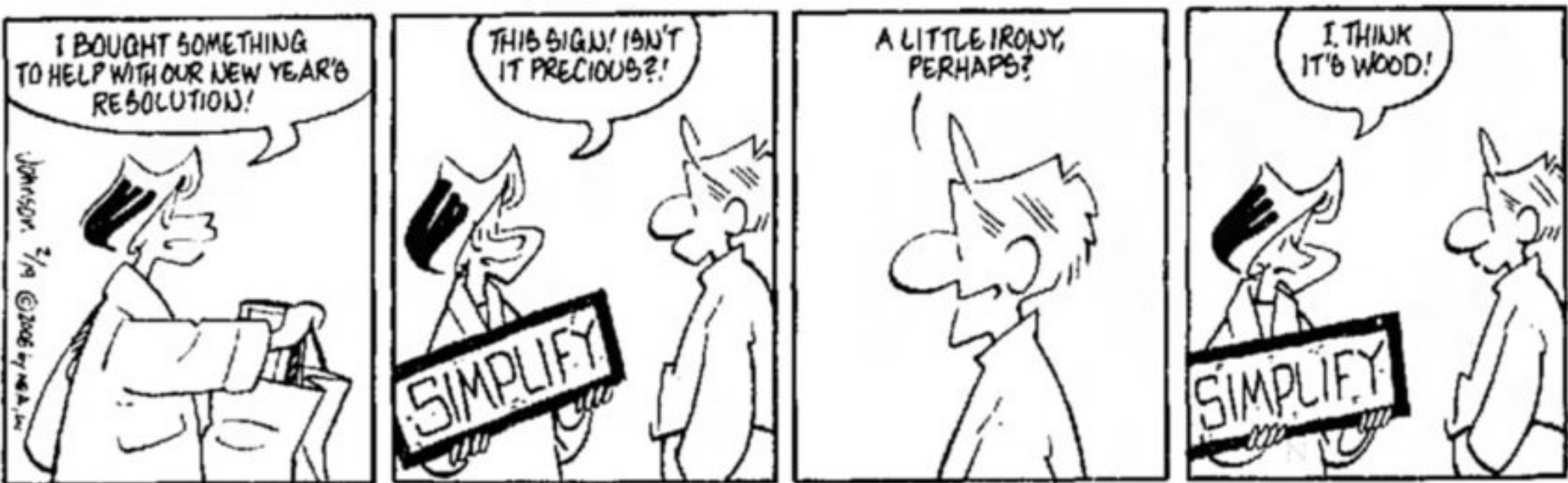
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40 Sawed logs

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53 Comics pooch
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62 Deli bread
63 ABC rival
64 Aptitude

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6 Sugarloaf locale
7 Make clear
8 Catherine — Jones
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30 31 32 33 34 35 36
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Answer to Previous Puzzle

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ONS MEN STEW

16 Room and board
20 Step on it
21 Jaunty caps
22 Fencer's blade
23 Nurture
24 Acquires, as debt
28 Designed for offices
29 Washout
31 Brown of renown
34 Tex-Mex snack
35 Verve
36 Mounts gemstones
41 Volleyball need
42 Cut calories
44 Horror-film servant
45 Buy by mail
46 Loud
49 Fixed-up building
51 Monsieur's pate
52 Goes to law
55 Royal symbol
56 "Grand — Opry"
57 Low-tech cooler
58 Dovetail

NEWS

CARROLL MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS (RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT)

The following were named to the second-quarter honor roll at Carroll Middle School.

Grade eight Highest honors

Jeremy Coltogirone, Elizabeth D'amico, Nicole Fonner, Haley Mendola and Tessa Pozzi.

High honors

Elizabeth Angell, Tamika Arnold, Fionna Barnes, Michael Beveridge, Russell Blackburn, Alfon Cook,

Rebecca Farquhar, Samantha Franks, Alexis Griese, Rachelle Michalowski, Morgan Petrasky, Zachary Radu, Rebekah Sipin, Robert Steele, Krista Wilson, Lisa Younger and Brianna Young.

Honors

Robert Baloga, Jon Boyd, Kelsey Cooke, Joy Greenlee, Jessica Landish, Percy Law, Heather Leone, Veronica Mcconville, Jacob Mckita, Coleton Megela, Christina

Narey, Ashley Necciai, Maggie Phillips, Justin Pomponio, Tempestt Taylor, Chris Tucker and Sean Wineland.

Grade seven Highest honors

Jessica Carpenter, Taylor Carter, Krista Day, Nicholas Kapt, Jennifer Lenhart, Sarah Stine, Alisha Swalin and Joseph Wall.

High honors

Kendall Brice, Kimberly

Cowden, Robert Higgins, Gabrielle Kortyna, Samantha Lytle, Shane Patrick, Jesse Pry, Shannon Sleith, Joseph Smith, Frances Taylor, Kelsey Troup, Matthew Vitalbo and Joelle Wall.

Honors

Emily Anderson, Rubin Biziaev, Morgan Boyd, Leanna Burnisky, Ryan Green, Tiara Johnson, Travis Parasolick and Dustin Zimmerman.

Grade six Highest honors

Jessica Angell, Courtney Buraczewski, Hannah Castaneda, Jordan Curry, Caroline Passaretti, Jeremy Perez and Matthew Petras.

High honors

Sarah D'amico, Dominic Gaston, Meagan Hyslop, Jessie Martin, Chelsey Russo, Tramyer Summers, Victoria Vernet and Krista Wisyanski.

Honors

James Baloga, Lakisha Dunmeyer, John Ermlick, Christopher Essey, Jacob Fritch, Ian Gavaghan, Kaitlyn Greco, Nicholas Greco, Lauren Hollis, Heather Homa, Jonathan Layton, Leah Lovell, Lindsay Lusk, Nathan Petrosky, Chelsea Rodino, Ashley Russo, Erica Santina, Elecia Smith, Lucas Stablein, Ryan Tabacca and Zachary Wooley.

FINLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS (RINGGOLD SCHOOL DISTRICT)

The following were named to the second-quarter honor roll at Finley Middle School:

Grade eight Highest honors

Kayla Bracken, Briana Burney, Jordan Drischler, Kara Dunmire, Emily Eikey, Emily Harger, Jennifer Hannel, Alexandra Irey, Brian Mazzeo, Brittany Parnell, Shannon Robison, Angela Selby, Amanda Stumpf and Shelby Zakrzewski.

High honors

Angelica Allen, Amanda Bickel, Lindsey Bosanac, Caitlin Crall, Devin Dipiazza, Abigail Edenborn, Marissa Elliott, Donald Fakner, Zachary Fischer, Bethany Gardner, Jordan Gillingham, Emily Grove, Kristen Guballa, Jared Hancock, Connor Kane, Eric Klebanski, Julia Konwick, Kimberly Kukol, Eli Macugoski, Jacob Murphy, Maggie Norton, Jonathan Patz, Francis Seliga, Todd Sherrerd, Austin Szuminsky, Jennifer Tolliver, Venjo Tormis and Anthony Trocano.

Honors

Dominick Affinito, Garrett Bellis, Taryn Burney, Kirk Fischer, Amanda Fisher, Renee Fries, Mitchell Gadd, Alexia Geracitano, Joshua Gudenburr, Nathan Jasko, Alexis Jones, Natalie Karpinsky, Georgia Kennedy, Samantha Kennedy, David Lamberger, Jessica Lewis, Dalton Marnich, Cody Martin, Samuel Martin, Jannell Mcanulty, Olivia Meyer, Breanna Miller, Marysa Myers, Roxanne Oglesby, Joshua Parnell, Christopher Powell, Lane Poziviak, Anthony Rich, Amanda Rimsek, Katelyn Scardanello, George Schoedel, Amber Seykoski, Briana St Cyr, Sean Stoner, Patrick Stuart, William Sutyak, Kendalyn Sypolt, Elizabeth Venanzi, Michael Warchol, Carlee Wiley and Jake Wisener.

Grade seven Highest honors

Kyle Bansavage, Chelsea Bartman, Harley Bobnar, Catherine Brooks, Kelly Donovan, Leanne Fries, Nicole Guarinoni, Alexandra Indof, Samuel Kainz, Mitchell Kohlborn, Andrew Obringer, Chris Spahr and Hallie Szymanski.

High honors

Alyssa Ashcraft, Kathryn Bandi, Kalie Chasko, George Chettle, Michael Cramer, Rachal Good, Bethany Heinlein, Jacob Henson, Mackenzie Janda, Rose Jasko, Jamie Klebanski, Brian Lewis, Cory Lutz, Tyler Mackenzie, Nicole Marraccini, Erin McKee, Jessica Mesina, Mara Pepke, Fortino Rigano, Johanna Schmidt, Sean St

Cyr, Sara Toretta, Roman Toth, Adam Winterbottom and Harleigh Wujcik.

Honors

Gracie Abel, Aylah Andersen, Dante Bartolotta, Amanda Bero, Brooke Bly, Ashley Coulter, Shayla Crews, Amanda Dallas, Megan Dallessandro, Aaron Davis, Sarah Davis, Samantha Degrange, Kathryn Fellabaum, Shawna Ford, Elizabeth Gearhart, Michael Gruber, Juliana Jeffery, Jared Karpinsky, Dorian Kelly, David Loris, Joseph Malachosky, Brennah Martik, Damon McCallister, Sydnee McKeever, Logan Mellor, Samantha Middlemiss, Brad Mocniak, Marissa Molnar, Michael Rizzo, Jacob Sanders, Falesha Sapko, Sara Schmalzried, James Schran, Melody Smith, Renee Smith, Ashley Sneddon, Anthony Spano, Alexis Stepling, Brandi Stewart, Lauren Taylor, Blake Wiltrout and Travis Yost.

Grade six Highest honors

Devin Beck, Tiffany Behanna, Jennifer Bickel, Clayton Bobnar, Celina Cantini, Lacey Gavala, Alayna Hamilton, Julie Kogler, Sarah Krempasky, Katherine Lawrence, Rebecca Podrosky, Terrence Richardson, Gary Schultz, Roman Selby, Alex Stumpf, Nicholas Trocano, Aaron Turkovich, Adam Vaccaro

High honors

Charise Barner, Jillian Bartman, Zachary Baynham, Christian Bowser, Dustyn Bright, Geraldyn Caruso, Ryan Cekus, Makenze Fine, Leslie Finney, Krysta Goldbach, Carie Guballa, Rachel Hiltenbrant, Bryce Imhoff, Nicole Jezerski, Matthew Kirby, Cassandra Lignelli, Adam Martin, Raeann Moss, Nathaniel Patton, Megan Powell, Eleni Radic, Katelyn Runyan, Serafina Strangis and Jordan Zelinsky.

Honors

Samuel Allman, Joseph Booher, Benjamin Cafeo, Kristina Cannon, Derek Chernuta, Giuseppe Ciotti, Joshua Duda, Connor Dudas, Ethan Frankfort, Elizabeth Giles, Amanda Hackinson, Savanna Haney, Tyler Hufnagel, Jared Jimirro, Elish Kennedy, Matthew Klaas, Jesse Lawrence, Kathleen McKenzie, Jacob Medlin, Tyler Polcawich, Ashley Preffer, Nicholas Schran, Destinee Sedok, Koree Shedlock, Jaime Stewartson, Morgan Sutts, Colton Thomas, Emily Tomosky, Garrett Whittaker, Michael Wietrzykowski, Jackie Wolowski and Samantha Yuvan.

CALIFORNIA AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS

The following were named to the second-quarter honor roll at California Area Middle School:

Grade six

Jonathon Abbott, Cory Adams, Gavin Andersen, Ronald Baron, Brooke Bilitski, Tori Bloom, Shealyn Brown, Brandon Carson, Kailyn Clancy, Demetri Clements, Jacob Columbus, Tristen Conaway, Joseph DeFranco, Kayla Demo, Natalie DiPiazza, Stephanie DiPiazza, Caitlyn Gaskill, Kevin Gergely, Nathan Harris, Austin Hunter, Rachel Huntington, Colin Keegan, Lacey Koster, Alex Kubala, Madeleine Layhue, Kelsea Lincoski, Tristan Lint, Michael Luketich, Joshua Luko, Felicity Macosta, Amaya Michaux, Elish Miller, David Mounts, Anthony Newman, Mitchell Niccolai, Zachary Parocai, Elizabeth Paul, Matthew Pepper, Devan Peterman, Paige Petrucci, Tyler Phillips, Danny

Roberts, Raven Santo, Kimberly Sears, Josephine Tarquinio, Victoria Terry, Ryan Tirpak, Lucas Tranchita, Daniel Truskey, Dakota Uhutch, Daniel Victor, Michael Volkwein, Hunter Watkins, Kirstan Webb, Austin Wingo, Christopher Wright and Logan Zahand.

Grade seven

Jacob Angelo, Natalie Baron, Gia Bitonti, Demetrius Blades, Kayla Boothe, Kevin Brown, Brianna Caton, Kelcie Christopher, Thomas Dellirocili, Samantha Downes, Rachel Ferry, Brian Fisher, Bianca Forsythe, Logan Gillis, Joshua Gilotty, Mackenzie Granato, Carley Hartley, Jordan Hartley, Elizabeth Haschets, Mariah Hayden, Abigail Helmick, Brandon Howard, Tanner Huffman, Joshua Huntington, Caitlin Kelley, Karissa Kelley, Tiffany Kent, George Krcelich, Kayla Lacotta, Matthew Lauman, Travis Leyda, Stephanie Little,

Braya Lundy, Nickolai Macosta, Erika McAdams, Danielle McBurnie, Courtney McMasters, John Mihalek, Kalya Moore, Alexis Morosky, Evan Patterson, James Paterman, Courtney Pro, Christina Puhnaty, Stanley Rossell, Emily Sabo, Samantha Savochka, Elizabeth Scales, Brett Schwalb, Patrick Short, Colt Stewart, Benjamin Thomas, Kaytlin Turner, Kelsey Tyler, Jordan Vadella, Stephen Weinstein, Ty Williams, Emilee Wilson and Jacob Woolf.

Grade eight

Matthew Bakewell, Christina Beck, Rebecca Bianchi, Brandon Blackburn, Skyler Boehm, Shelby Brown, Kadie Clancy, Alexis Clement, Tyler Conway, Cortney Cooper, Marshall Craig, Skyler Dickinson, Destiny Dugan, Chelsey Duricic,

Casey Edwards, Jacob Evans, Trevor Flaherty, Samantha Greco, Jorri Grillo, Miranda Hall, Michael Hamilton, Timothy Hampson, Kasey Hickman, Layla Holma, David Hull, Zakary Kubala, Cody Lambert, Jamie Leckemby, Breanna Lincoski, William Little, Anthony Lucketti, Schuyler Marshall, Alex Maund, Triumph Messenger, Lewis Morrison, James Muth, Shelley Parsons, Ronald Peters, William Rogers, Eric Rucci, Hannah Russell, Sarah Shashura, Samuel Shonts, Nicholas Smith, Erik Sollars, Elizabeth Sprowls, Autumn Stinnett, Boyd Stinnett, Sheila Stone, Kaleigh Tautkus, Taylor Tiano, David Trozzo, Lauren Truskey, Patrick Tunney, Nazareth Victoria, Tonya Wingo, Jordan Wolford, Zane Wright and Annie Zengh.

www.valleyindependent.com

Memorial Tributes For...

Easter

IF YOU WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE....

For your convenience in selecting a suitable memorial, a number of verses have been printed below. One of these may perfectly portray your feelings. However, you may express any sentiment in your own words, or stop in at our Eastgate office and select a verse from our Memorial Book. If you prefer to publish a picture with the verse, please contact the classified department by phone at 724-684-5200 for further information.

Special Easter Memorial Page To Be Published Saturday, March 22, 2008

1. You are not forgotten, loved one,
Nor will you ever be.
As long as life and memory last,
We shall remember thee.
We miss you now, our hearts are sore,
As time goes on we miss you more.
Your loving smile, your gentle face,
No one can fill your vacant place.

2. They say time heals all sorrows,
And helps us to forget,
But time so far has only proved
How much we miss you yet.
God gave us strength to fight it
And courage to bear the blow,
But what it meant to lose you,
No one will ever know.

3. You have taken your long last journey
In the beautiful ship, called Rest,
Away from this world of sorrow
To the home of Eternal Rest.

4. I day recalls sad memories
Of our dear one gone to rest,
And the ones who think of you today,
Are the ones who love you best.

5. Within our hearts we'll always keep
A special place for you,
And try to do our best to live
As you would want us to.
We loved you so, we miss you,
In our memory you are near.
Loved, remembered and longed for,
Always treasured with love sincere.

6. Your life is a beautiful memory,
Your death is a silent grief,
You sleep in God's beautiful garden,
In the sunshine of perfect peace.

7. Wonderful memories woven in gold,
This is the picture we tenderly hold.
Deep in our hearts - memory is kept,
To love, cherish and never forget.

8. Our hearts are heavy,
Our thoughts are all of thee,
How we really miss you, dear,
No one but God can see.
Some say time heals an aching heart,
But, no, it isn't true,
For many long years have passed
And our hearts still ache for you.

9. Memories are treasures no one can steal,
Death leaves a heartache no one can heal.
Loved dearly in life and living yet,
In the hearts of the ones who will never forget.

10. No one knows how much we miss you,
No one knows the bitter pain
We have suffered since we lost you,
Life has never been the same.
In our hearts your memory lingers,
Sweetly tender, fond and true,
There is not a day, dear loved one
That we do not think of you.

11. Tonight the stars are gleaming
Upon a lonely grave,
Where sleeps one without dreaming
The one we loved but could not save.
The rolling streams of life pass on,
But still the vacant chair,
Recalls the smile, the love, the voice,
Of the one who once sat there.

12. Nothing can ever take away
The love a heart holds dear,
Fond memories linger every day
Remembrance keeps them near.

13. As we loved you, so we miss you
In our hearts you are ever near,
Loved, remembered, longed for always
Bringing many a silent tear.

14. Time takes away the edge of grief,
But memory turns back every leaf,
Sunshine fades and shadows fall,
But sweet remembrance outlasts all.

15. Gone, dear loved one, gone forever,
How we miss your smiling face,
But you left us to remember,
None on earth can take your place.
A happy home we once enjoyed,
How sweet the memory still,
But death has left a loneliness,
The world can never fill.

16. The depth of sorrow we cannot tell,
Of the loss of one we loved so well,
And while you sleep, a peaceful sleep,
Your memory we shall always keep.

17. I formed a mental picture
Of the one I loved so dear,
His (she) went to meet his (her) Maker
Without a trace of fear.
Sometime I hope to join him (her),
What a meeting that will be,
When we are again united
Beyond life's sea of dreams.

18. Our hearts still ache with sadness,
Our eyes shed many tears,
God only knows how much we miss you
At the end of these long years.
And when evening shadows are falling,
And we are sitting all alone,
There comes to us a longing,
If only you could come home.

19. Peacefully sleeping, resting at last,
His (she) weary troubles and trials past,
In silence he (she) suffered,
In patience he (she) bore
"Till God called him (her) home
To suffer no more."

20. When links of life are broken
And loved ones have to part,
It leaves a wound that never heals
An ever aching heart.
So it does not take a special day,
To bring him (her) to our minds,
For days that we do not think of him (her)
Are very hard to find.

21. Within our store memories,
He (she) holds a place apart,
For no one else can ever be
More cherished in our hearts.

An Easter Tribute
In Loving Memory Of
Helen M. Doe

Our beloved mother & grandmother,
who passed away
June 14, 1995.

No one knows how much we miss you.
No one knows the bitter pain we have suffered since we lost you.
Life has never been the same. In our hearts your memory lingers, sweetly tender, fond and true, there is not a day, dear loved one, that we do not think of you.

Sadly missed by your family

THIS SIZE 2X3
WITH OR WITHOUT PHOTO
\$45.00

THIS SIZE 1X2
\$25.00

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE

1x2 1/2.....\$27.00

1x3.....\$30.00

An Easter Tribute
In Loving Memory Of
Helen M. Doe

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Sadly missed by your family

USE THIS ORDER FORM - MAIL TODAY

In loving memory of (my or our)

Name

Passed Away (date)

Verse Number

Sadly missed by

Enclosed is \$ _____ for one or \$ _____ for two or more (minus \$1.00 from each memorial if two or more)

CASH CHECK MONEY ORDER

If you prefer, you may be billed for your memorial.

Billing: (Name)

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

If you want to write your own verse, send it with this order form. We will calculate the cost and advise you by telephone.

MAIL TO... THE VALLEY INDEPENDENT
EASTGATE 19
MONESSEN, PA 15062
OR CALL 724-684-5200

YOU MAY REQUEST ARTWORK AT
NO ADDITIONAL CHARGE SUCH AS...

IN THE SERVICE

Kadish receives navy commission



Kadish

his commission as an ensign.

He will serve as a division officer aboard the USS John S. McCain, a guided missile destroyer stationed in Yokosuka, Japan.

Kadish, a Monessen High School graduate, received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

He is the son of John and April Kadish and grandson of Judy Coch, all of Monessen.

DEADLINE
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 5PM

The Valley Independent



www.valleyindependent.com

FEATURES

Frugal Living

Beating the winter blahs

Sara NOEL



Are you going stir-crazy waiting for spring? Bring on the sunshine, cue the butterflies and give me the sweet scent of hyacinth.

I'm done with short days, heating bills, gray skies and cold and flu. I enjoy the four seasons, but sometimes winter is too long. It's not surprising that some people experience the winter blues. Don't bottle your feelings up. Make some positive changes. Here are a few blah-busting tips to help you feel alive. Before you know it, it'll be spring.

GET OUTSIDE: It's way too easy to make excuses for not getting outdoors during winter. A simple walk outside can make a huge difference in how you feel. At the very least, open the blinds and let the light shine through. If you can, plan a vacation during winter to break up the season. Even if it's a drive, get outside and breathe in the air and absorb the light. It's a great time to feed winter

birds. If you have snow, look for a place to go snowshoeing, ice-skating or sledging. It's a great season to grab your camera and take some scenic pictures.

EXERCISE: If you're not into winter sports, there are plenty of exercises you can do inside. Try an exercise video for even 20 minutes a day, and I guarantee you'll feel rejuvenated. You have an opportunity to take that spin or yoga class or go swimming. Plenty of time to get in shape before summer.

EAT WELL: Break out the recipes you've been meaning to try. It's the perfect time to enjoy comfort foods, too. Nutritious foods and balanced meals combined with rest and exer-

cise are going to help you feel good. If you don't usually take vitamins, try it. Vitamin D can help.

ADD COLOR: Add colorful decorative accents such as pillows, towels and place mats to freshen and liven up your indoor space. It's amazing what fresh flowers, fruit and tropical plants can do to improve your mood. Colorful candles and reed diffusers with fresh scents can lift your spirits, too.

MUSIC: Curl up with a book and some feel-good music. Is there music you haven't listened to in years? Now is a great time to play it. Sit next to a window. Pamper yourself. Break out the moisturizer to soothe dry skin and simply relax.

WATCH MOVIES OR TELEVISION: Grab a comedy and laugh, or watch programs that focus on the outdoors. Gardening shows can inspire you, and it's not too early to order seeds and get a jump start on your garden with winter

sowing. For more information, check out www.wintersown.org.

TAKE A CLASS: If you've been thinking about taking a class like cake decorating, knitting or learning a foreign language, do it. Get out and interact with other people.

TALK WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY: Get together and talk. Don't isolate yourself in winter hibernation. Share time with people who care about you. Throw a party and have some fun. If you're feeling more than a little blah, get the support you need.

Sara Noel is the owner of *Frugal Village* (www.frugalvillage.com), a Web site that offers practical, money-saving strategies for everyday living. To send tips, comments or questions, write to Sara Noel, c/o *United Media*, 200 Madison Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10016, or e-mail sara@frugalvillage.com

CALENDAR WATCH

Wednesday

■ Arthritis Support Group meeting, Monongahela Valley Hospital Anthony M. Lombardi Education Conference Center, 1 p.m.

■ Drinking water clinic, Westmoreland Conservation District, Greensburg, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

■ Belle Vernon Area VFW Post 699 meeting, American Legion home, North Belle Vernon, 7:30 p.m.

■ Southwestern Pennsylvania Chiefs and Assistant Chiefs Association Inc. meeting, Connellsville Township VFD, 8 p.m.

VALLEY GRAPEVINE

Soup suppers set in Lynnwood

Lynnwood Lutheran Church, Washington Township, will hold Soup Suppers 6 p.m. each Wednesday in Lent. The public is invited and asked to bring their own table setting. Evening prayer service follows at 7 p.m.

Italian Heritage Society to meet

The regular monthly meeting of the Monessen Italian Heritage Society will be held 7 p.m. Thursday at the Epiphany Chapel hall. Mary Ann Goff, former manager of the Labor and Industry district office, will be the guest speaker.

Souper Sunday set in Yukon

Christian Mothers and Ladies are sponsoring a Souper Sunday at Rogers Hall, Seven Dolores Church, 102 Center St., Yukon, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday. The menu will comprise four kinds of sandwiches, dessert, beverage and unlimited refills of 15 varieties of soup. Raffles will be held.

Black History program scheduled

Mon Valley Branch NAACP President George Burroughs Jr. and Program Chair Gladys Foster have announced that the branch will present its annual area-wide Black History program 3 p.m. Sunday at the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, 230 Reed Ave., Monessen. Co-Chair Dorothy Moore-Wilson said that "several youth from area churches will be featured in a program of readings, music, mime and more. In addition there will be treats for children. Sunday school classes will

be invited to stand, announce the number in their group and the name of their pastor. The Sunday school having the most members in their group will receive special recognition. African-American organizations and businesses are also invited to stand and announce their name and president's name or business owner's name. Refreshments will be served following the program.

Winter indoor yard sale set

The second annual Winter Indoor Yard Sale will be held 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 1 and 2 at St. Sebastian Parish, North Belle Vernon. Refreshments will be available and a bake sale will be held. For information or to rent table space, call Darleen Koury at (724) 929-9300 or (724) 930-8504.

YMCA schedules oil painting classes

The Mon Valley YMCA, Carroll Township, will offer Advanced Oil Painting classes beginning March 3. Classes will run from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m. for 12 weeks. Participants provide ideas, materials and equipment and Herb Edwards will offer guidance and tips for each project. Call the YMCA at (724) 483-8077.

Train show, sale set in New Eagle

The Mid Mon Valley Model Railroad Club and New Eagle Volunteer Fire Department will sponsor a Train Show and Sale 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday at the New Eagle Volunteer Fire Department social hall, Chess St., New Eagle. Food and refreshments will be available, modular displays, camera with engineer's eye view. Parking is free and the social hall is handicap accessible.

ODDS & ENDS

Grade-school buddy donating kidney

NEW YORK (AP) — Two grade-school friends who reconnected online after more than a decade are becoming more than bosom buddies — one is donating a kidney to his rediscovered pal.

"He's giving me something not too many people would give," Ricardo Manier, 21, said of his friend Karl Celestin. The transplant surgery is set for Tuesday at a Manhattan hospital, the Daily News of New York reported.

The two were close friends and classmates at Holy Family School in Queens until Manier's family moved to California in 1996, after his eighth-grade year. They soon lost touch.

Manier has focal segmental glomerulosclerosis, a kidney-scarring disease that often causes chronic kidney failure, according to the National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health's Medline Plus Web site. He has been hospitalized repeatedly since he was 5.

Nonetheless, he was a premed student at a California college until June, when his kidneys virtually stopped working, he said. During his six-week hospitalization, the networking Web site Facebook served up Celestin's name.

The two soon got together in New York, where Manier now lives. Celestin, a student at a medical school in the Dominican Republic, said he volunteered for the kidney donation because it pained him to see his old friend's similar ambitions delayed by his condition.

CELEBRITY CIPHER

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations by famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another. Today's clue: A equals P

"MSSTRY YKMY MHH BN PZ SMG AT
KPLY, YKMY MHH BN PZ SMG - MGF
ZPLTHV JXHH MY YXUTZ - NMXH."
- FL. OBVST ALBYKTLZ

PREVIOUS SOLUTION — "We grow great by dreams. All big men are dreamers." - Woodrow Wilson
"Above all, tell the truth." - Grover Cleveland

New NYC jail menu is bland, but healthy

NEW YORK (AP) — Spending time behind bars in New York City might turn out to be good for your health.

The overhauled menu at the city's jails includes no sweets, no butter and only skim milk. The Department of Corrections wants healthy alternatives to traditional jailhouse grub.

A breakfast might include fresh fruit, whole wheat bread and wheat flakes. A sample dinner: pepper steak, rice and steamed carrots.

"These people are in our custody, and they don't get to make their own choices," said Department of Correction Commissioner Martin Horn. "We have a moral obligation to make sound choices for them."

FIVE GENERATIONS



Julia Amatangelo, of Monongahela, made a visit to south Florida recently to meet her new great-granddaughter Aubriana Barrass-Jones. Pictured during the gathering of five generations were (from left) Carol Agronow, Aubriana's great-grandmother; Amatangelo holding Aubriana; Jennifer Barrass, Aubriana's mother; and Matthew Barrass, the baby's grandfather.

THE QUIZ

NEWSPLACE

(10 points for correct answer)



Revelers set off fireworks after the parliament of this territory recently declared it an independent republic, a decade after a bloody separatist war with Serbian forces. Serbia and Russia quickly condemned the move, while Western nations including the United States and France formally recognized it as an independent country. Ninety percent of the new republic's 2 million people are ethnic Albanian. The government declared its intention to make a "democratic, multiethnic state." Name this new republic.

WORLDSCOPE

(10 points for each correct answer)

- 1-A former student opened fire in a lecture hall at ... University in Dekalb, Illinois, killing five students and then himself.
- 2-The largest beef recall in history was launched following questions about the treatment of cattle by a meatpacking plant in southern ...
- 3-Turnout was lackluster at parliamentary elections in ... where President Porvez Musharraf's political fate may hang in the balance.
- 4-Only a day after a suicide bomber killed 100 people, at least 35 civilians were killed by a bombing in southern ...
- 5-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in the African nation ... pushing a power-sharing agreement to end a bloody political crisis.

NEWSNAME

(15 points for correct answer)



I have been the prime minister of Australia since

November. Recently, I made a formal apology to the indigenous people of my country for decades of government mistreatment, which I described as "profound grief, suffering and loss." Between 1910 and 1970, the "assimilation" policies of former governments took one in 10 indigenous children from their families and placed them with white families. About 100 members of the group now known as the "Stolen Generations" were in parliament to hear my speech, some wiping away tears. Who am I?

PEOPLE/SPORTS

(5 points for each correct answer)

1. Who is chief of the Stockdale Fire Department?
2. Who is the coach of the Ringgold High School Lady Rams basketball team?
3. Who was the first DJ at the former Stockdale Fire hall dances?
4. Who is administrator of Fayette County's Children & Youth Services?
5. Who is president of the Class A Mid-Atlantic Hockey League?

YOUR SCORE:

91 to 100 points TOP SCORE!
81 to 90 points Excellent

Knowledge Unlimited, Inc. 2-18-08

71 to 80 points Good
61 to 70 points Fair

ANSWERS

NEWSPLACE: Kosovo
WORLDSCOPE: 1-Northern Illinois; 2-California; 3-Pakistan; 4-Afghanistan; 5-Kenya
NEWSNAME: Kevin Rudd
PEOPLE/SPORTS: 1-Al Marcy; 2-Joe Ravasio; 3-Ron Paglia; 4-Dave Madison; 5-Andrew Haines

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Fighting for Human Rights

Get to Know Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth would probably be proud if she could see this year's presidential candidates, who include a black man and a woman. It may be partly because of Sojourner's work that almost any American can have a chance to be president today.

Sojourner was one of a few former slaves who traveled around the country talking about the evils of slavery.

The Mini Page celebrates Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March) with a story about this strong woman.

Early years

Sojourner was named Isabella when she was born into slavery in about 1797 near Albany, N.Y. She spoke Dutch as a child. As with most slaves, she never learned to read or write.

She was sold away from her parents when she was about 9 years old. Her new "owners" spoke only English. They beat her when she did not follow their commands, even though she could not understand them.

Throughout her life she had five owners. When she was about 18, she married a fellow slave, Thomas. They had five children, but one died in infancy.



To raise money, Sojourner Truth sold photos of herself. She always appeared as a dignified middle-class woman. She did not want to be photographed to gain sympathy, as did many former slaves.

The New York law

New York passed a law that said all adult slaves in the state would be free on the Fourth of July, 1827. Children would stay slaves until they were adults.

Sojourner convinced her master to grant her freedom a year early if she would do extra work for a year. She did, but then her owner refused to honor the agreement.

Walking away from slavery

Sojourner stayed with her owner until October 1826, when the harvest was in, and then she took her infant daughter and walked away to freedom. She was not able to take her other three children with her.

She walked to a nearby farm owned by a Quaker family. People who belonged to the Quaker faith worked against slavery.

When her owner came after her, the Quaker family bought out her contract. They paid about \$20 for her remaining labor for that year, and for her infant.

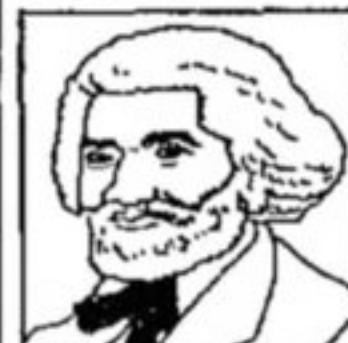
Her calling

Sojourner moved to New York City and began preaching in black churches. This was unusual for a woman.

When she was about 46, in 1843, she became convinced that God wanted her to go out in the country and preach against injustice, telling the truth. She changed her name to Sojourner Truth. "Sojourner" means traveler.

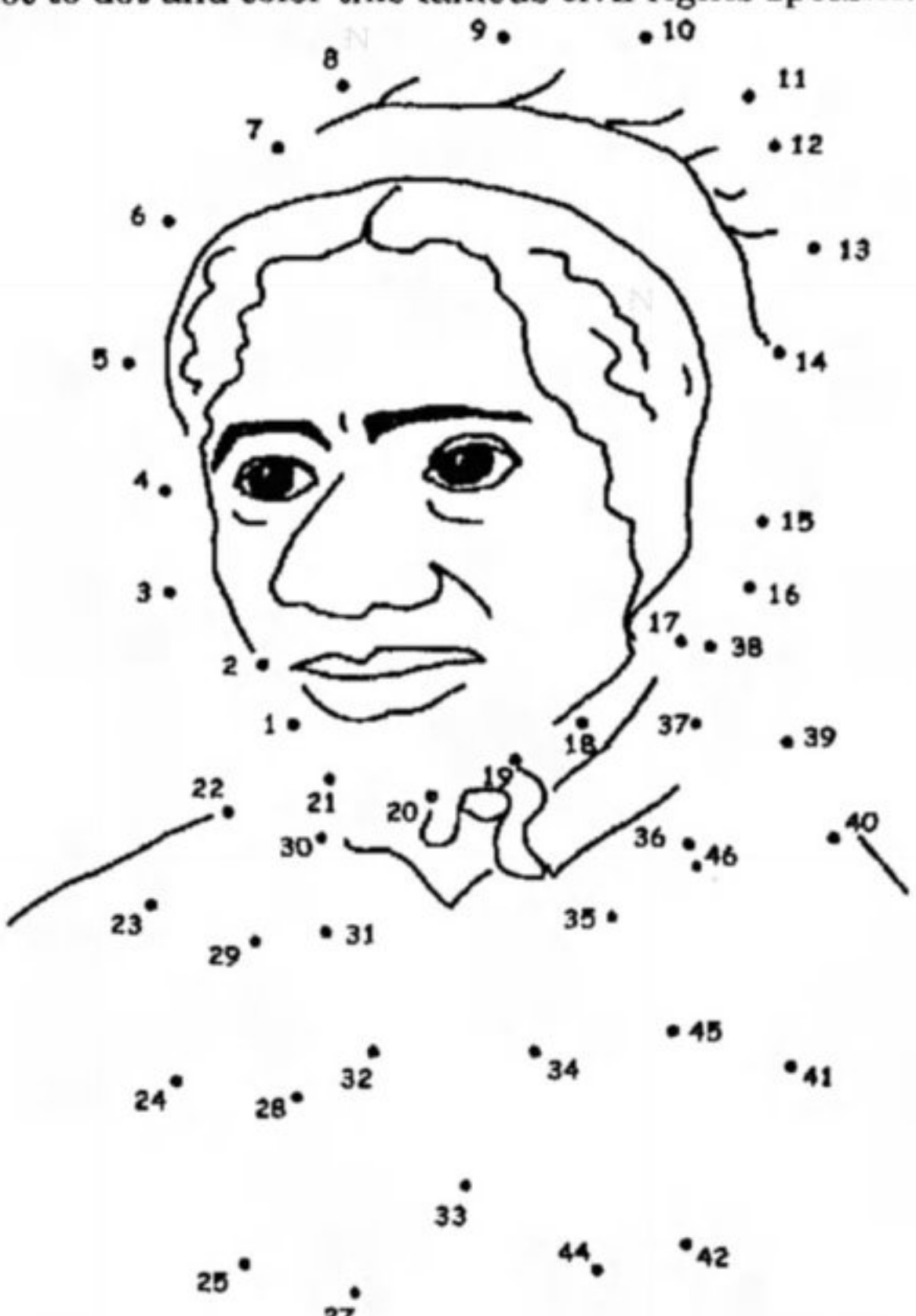
She quit her job as a housekeeper and began preaching in New England. In the summer she lived in tents.

In the winter of 1844-45, she joined a settlement in Northampton, Mass. There she met other anti-slavery fighters such as Frederick Douglass.



Frederick Douglass

Go dot to dot and color this famous civil rights speaker.



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Rookie Cookie's Recipe Zapped Apples

This makes a quick dessert or snack anytime!

You'll need:

- 2 large apples
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 3 teaspoons brown sugar
- 1 1/2 teaspoons orange juice
- 1/4 teaspoon cinnamon
- 3 tablespoons raisins
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 teaspoon chopped pecans (optional)

What to do:

1. Core apples carefully and make a slit around the middle of each apple to prevent skin from bursting.
2. Melt butter in microwave for 10 to 15 seconds. Stir in brown sugar, orange juice, cinnamon and raisins.
3. Fill each apple core with mixture.
4. Place apples in small baking dish with 1/4 cup water in bottom. Sprinkle pecans on top of apples if desired.
5. Cover baking dish with plastic. Cook on high in microwave for 4 minutes. Allow to cool for 15 minutes before serving.
6. Place apples in bowls and cut into chunks for serving. Makes 2 servings.

*You will need an adult's help with this recipe.

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Meet Raven-Symoné



Raven-Symoné is the star of the Disney Channel series "That's So Raven." She is also producing the series' fourth season.

Raven, 22, was born in Atlanta and named Raven-Symoné Pearman. She has been acting and singing most of her life. She began acting when she was 3 years old.

She played Olivia on "The Cosby Show," then played Nicole in "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper."

She is the voice of Monique on the Disney Channel animated series "Kim Possible." She has been in several movies, including "The Cheetah Girls" movies, the "Zenon" movies, the "Doctor Dolittle" movies and "The Princess Diaries 2."

Raven also sings and has performed on the soundtracks for "That's So Raven" and "The Cheetah Girls." She has also made three solo albums. She has toured with "NSYNC."

She has granted more than 50 wishes for sick children through groups such as the Make-A-Wish Foundation®.

Raven lives in Los Angeles. She loves to Jet-Ski, cook, sketch and paint.

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Gus Goodsport's Report Supersport: Martin Brodeur



Height: 6-2 Birthdate: 5-6-72

Weight: 215 Hometown: Montreal, Quebec

When he skates onto the ice for warm-ups, Martin Brodeur looks like most masked hockey goalies.

But during games he looks more like the Masked Marvel, stopping pucks flying at him from all angles. The New Jersey Devils veteran is one of the National Hockey League's all-time best goalies.

Brodeur, in his 14th full NHL season, has made the All-Star team 10 times, helped the Devils win three Stanley Cups, and has won several other individual awards. He has a career save percentage of about 91 percent.

He virtually grew up in the rink. His father, Denis, played goalie and helped Canada win a bronze medal in the 1956 Olympics. Later, his dad spent a lot of time as a photographer taking pictures in the NHL.

Brodeur gives back to his home community. In the offseason, he stages a charity golf tournament to help youth in the Montreal area.

But on the ice, the 35-year-old goalie is less charitable, giving up as few goals as possible.

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Speaking Out

Speaking out against injustice

Although it was then considered to be improper for a woman to speak publicly, and even though black people were often treated with disrespect, this did not stop Sojourner Truth. She spoke out for women's rights, the rights of freed slaves, prison reform, and against slavery, capital punishment, tobacco and drinking.

After the Civil War, she spoke out in support of giving each freed slave 40 acres and a mule, as had been promised to them. She even scouted out land in Kansas for this purpose.

A speaker in demand

Sojourner Truth became one of the most popular speakers of the time. She spoke powerfully with a sharp sense of humor, and she often moved audiences to tears. She ended up traveling thousands of miles, usually by train, to preach for human rights.

In 1850 a friend, Olive Gilbert, wrote a book about her life, "The Narrative of Sojourner Truth, A Northern Slave." This book made her even more popular as a speaker.



Sojourner was a large woman, about 6 feet tall. She had worked in the fields until she was in her 30s, so she was also muscular. Sometimes hecklers accused her of being a man.

Her speeches

We do not have any exact copies of Sojourner's speeches. Often newspaper reporters or audience members copied down her speech as they heard it. But sometimes they changed her language.

"Ain't I a Woman" speech

Here is a sampling of part of one of her speeches, given in 1851 at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio. It is one of her most famous speeches, and was probably recorded accurately.

"Well, children, where there is so much racket there must be something out of kilter. I think that 'twixt the negroes of the South and the women at the North, all talking about rights, the white men will be in a fix pretty soon. But what's all this here talking about?"

"The man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?..."

"I could work as much and eat as much as a man — when I could get it — and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman?..."

8-4 (08); release dates: February 23-29

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More About Sojourner Truth

Suing for justice

Sojourner Truth was one of the first African-American women to win a lawsuit, or court case, in the U.S. She actually won three lawsuits in her life. She brought her first lawsuit against her former owner. By New York law, slave children did not become free until they were adults. Owners could not legally sell them to another state where they would remain slaves after they grew up.

Her former owner broke the law and sold her 6-year-old son to a family in Alabama. Sojourner sued her owner and won. It took two years, but she got her son back and took him to New York City with her.

Later, she won a lawsuit against someone who accused her of a crime she had not done.

In her third suit, she won a case against discrimination. After the Civil War, she worked at a hospital for former slaves in Washington, D.C.

Streetcars there were supposed to carry black passengers, but many conductors refused. She and a white friend, Laura Haviland, figured out a plan to force conductors to grant them their rights.

Laura would hail the streetcar, and when it stopped, both women would get on. One conductor wrestled with Sojourner, trying to force her off. He wrenched her shoulder, and she sued him and won.



In October 1864, Sojourner Truth met with President Abraham Lincoln at the White House.

Fighting for children's rights

After the Civil War, freed slaves often had no place to go. Many came to Freedman's Village, the name of a refugee city in Arlington, Va., near Washington, D.C.

People from surrounding areas often came to Freedman's Village and kidnapped the children. When the parents went to the commanders of Freedman's Village for help, the parents were locked up.

Sojourner urged the parents to protest. When Freedman's Village leaders threatened to put her in prison too, she said if they did, she would "make this nation rock like a cradle." They backed down.

Her final home

When she was about 60, Sojourner bought a home in Harmonia, Mich. About 10 years later, she bought a house in Battle Creek, Mich. She continued to travel and speak, but used Battle Creek as her home base. She lived there with two of her three daughters until she died.



Sojourner Truth died in 1883, when she was about 86 years old.

The Mini Page thanks Mary Butler, director, research center, Sojourner Truth Institute.

Site to see: www.sojournertruth.org

Look through your newspaper for stories about people working against injustice.

Next week The Mini Page celebrates Newspaper in Education Week.

The Mini Page Staff

Betty Debnam - Contributing Editor

Lisa Tarry - Managing Editor

Lucy Lien - Associate Editor

Wendy Daley - Artist

MIGHTY FUNNY'S Mini Jokes

All the following jokes have something in common. Can you guess the common theme or category?

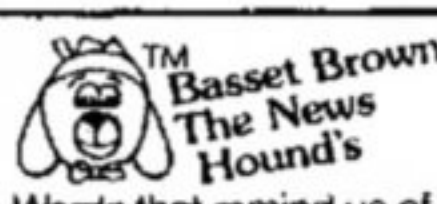
Carrie: Why did the pig like showing off so much?
Claire: Because he was such a ham!



Cora: What do you call the smartest pig in the world?
Chad: Einswine!



Chance: How would you describe a mean and nasty pig?
Chase: Dis-pig-able!



Sojourner Truth TRY 'N FIND

Words that remind us of Sojourner Truth are hidden in the block below. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used more than once. See if you can find: SLAVERY, FREE, TRAVEL, SPEAK, OUT, CIVIL, WAR, DUTCH, HUMAN, RIGHTS, WOMEN, QUAKER, LAWSUITS, JUSTICE, READ, ISABELLA, WRITE, VOTE, DIGNITY, POWERFUL, CHURCH, LAW, WORK, SON, SOUTH.

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A T R U R O O K A E P S U O H
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Mini Spy ...

Mini Spy and her pals are watching a debate on their new TV. See if you can find:



- question mark
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- comb
- word MINI
- fish • heart
- letter B
- teapot
- muffin
- elephant
- number 3
- snail
- lips

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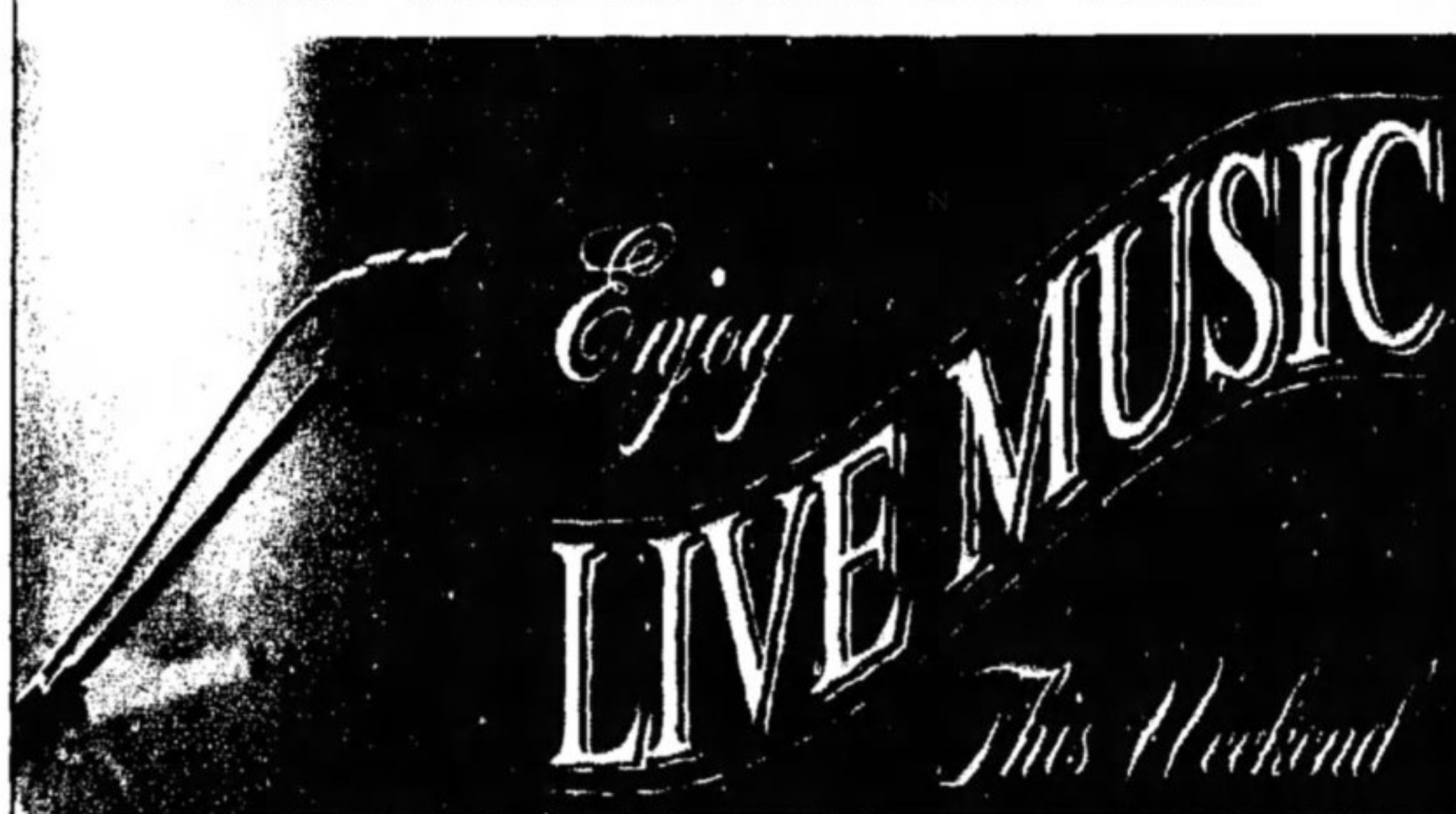
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day. Undercover shop-
pers needed to judge
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491-5378.

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ROUTE OPEN
Only 18 Papers
Highland Avenue
No Collecting
Call Melissa
724-684-2647

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AVAILABLE
Tribune Review
✓ California
✓ Bentleyville
✓ Ellsworth Area
Call Jason at
724-272-4437 or
Bill at 412-523-2306

1120/SITUATIONS

WILL BABYSIT in home.
Call
724-483-4762.

2010/ESTATE NOTICES

Marcinko, Anna Marie
ESTATE NOTICE

Letters Testamentary on
the Estate of Anna
Marie Marcinko, late of
Washington Township,
Fayette County, Penn-
sylvania, deceased,
having been granted by
the Register of Wills of
Fayette County, notice
is hereby given to all
persons indebted to
said estate to make
immediate payment,
and to those having
claims against the
same present them
without delay.

Eleanor Jean Lafink
Executrix
1334 Paradise Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Alan Benyak, Esquire
401 Sixth St.
at Washington Avenue
P.O. Box 1
Charlottesville, PA 15022
2/5/12/19

2020/BID NOTICES

NOTICE

The Westmoreland Inter-
mediate Unit Joint
Purchasing Consortium
will accept electroni-
cally-sealed online bids
for Audio Visual/Data
Processing and Custo-
dial/General supplies
on behalf of its follow-
ing members: Belle
Vernon Area, Burrell,
Corry Area, Franklin
Regional, Greater La-
trobe, Greensburg Sa-
lem, Hempfield Area,
Jeannette City, Kiski
Area, Ligonier Valley,
Monessen City, Mount
Pleasant Area, New
Kensington-Arnold,
Penn-Trafford, South-
moreland and Yough
school districts, East-
ern Westmoreland and
Northern Westmore-
land career and tech-
nology centers, and
Westmoreland Inter-
mediate Unit.

The bid process will be
conducted exclusively
online utilizing a se-
cure internet site
through eSchoolMail
(http://www.eschoolmail.com). Specifications
and information on bid
forms may be obtained
online at eSchoolMail.com. Additional in-
formation is available
by calling eSchoolMail.com at 1-877-969-
7246 or WU at 724-
839-2460 x2396. Elec-
tronic bids will be ac-
cepted until 3:00 p.m.,
EST, Wednesday,
March 5, 2008. Bids
will be opened elec-
tronically at 8:30 a.m.,
EST, Thursday, March
6, 2008 and will then
be available to the pub-
lic. Bids will be re-
viewed for award rec-
ommendations at a
public meeting of the
Westmoreland Inter-
mediate Unit Joint Pur-
chasing Consortium to
be held Thursday,
March 27, 2008, at
8:37 a.m. EST in the
Board Room at the
Westmoreland Inter-
mediate Unit Admini-
stration Building, 102
Equity Drive, Greens-
burg, Pennsylvania.

Gregg Kretschm
Joint Purchasing
Coordinator
Westmoreland Inter-
mediate Unit
2/7/13/19

5150/SPORTING GOODS

COLLECTOR
BUYING GOLD &
SILVER COINS
JEWELRY &
DENTAL GOLD
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LIONEL TRAINS
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Expenses Paid
Call Dale Ellen at
1-888-822-0146

4010/CEMETERY LOTS

4 LEVEL LOTS Mon Val-
ley Park in Wall of Se-
maria section near
main rd. across from
old school. \$2,000 all
4. After 4pm 724-872-
9221.

4020/LOST & FOUND

FIND SOMETHING?
LOSE SOMETHING?
Place your lost & found
and FREE. Run 4 days
at no charge. Call 724-
684-5200.

4100/PERSONALS

\$195 DIVORCE
COMPLETE
No-Fault Uncontested
Releasen & Davis, Pgh
No Court Appearance
or Travel To Office
-Free Information
1-800-486-4070 24Hrs

ALONE &
PREGNANT?
A Confidential
Caring Friend
Free Pregnancy Test
LIFELINE OF S.W. PA
Call Hotline 24 Hrs.
724-489-9020

5000/APPAREL & JEWELRY

BOOTS - Chuparros cow-
girl, red/white stars,
size 6 1/2. Never worn.
Pd \$90; sell \$50. 724-
699-5629

HARLEY DAVIDSON
leather & wool jacket
XL, excellent condition,
\$124.00 724-872-0151

5020/ARTICLES

OFFICE DESK - pecan
wood, w/glass top, 2
large file drawers, 30W
x80Lx30H. \$300. 724-
684-7310 after 5pm.

POWER CHAIR - large,
Quantum 600 with ex-
tensions, \$950. Call 724-
483-3151

TOYS and more toys,
Shoop, boys bike
w/training wheels, \$25
takes all. 724-797-5759

5030/AUCTIONS

ESTATE AUCTION
Sat., Feb. 23 at 10am
49 Fairview St.
Uniontown, PA

Partial Listing: nice GE
twin door refrigerator;
42 in. GE elec. Range;
microwave; upright
deepfreeze; lots cook-
ware; dishes; flatware;
large set flatware;
China; flatware; bowls;
Zenith color console
TV; portable TV; sofa
bed; easy chairs; 3 pc.
dining set; bedroom suite;
storage cabinet; pic-
tures; decorator mirror;
small roll top desk;
towels; linen; afghans;
Regulator clock; de-
pression glass; jewelry;
sweeper; Bud Light and
Pabst signs; Speed
Queen wringer washer;
laundry tub; toilet;
chairs; redwood picnic
table; snow
blower; power garden
tiller; vice; double pes-
tal grinder; power
saw; rotary mower;
lawn cart; weed chip-
per and more items.

ESTATE at 12
Noon - Ranch brick
style one story with 3
bedrooms, living room,
1 1/2 baths, full base-
ment with one car gar-
age; carpeted den,
laundry. Great home.
Plan to attend. Located
in North Union Twp. off
Pittsburgh Street
(Route 51). Large cor-
ner lot. Garden area
and storage building.
10% deposit on Auction
day, balance at clos-
ing. Seller subject to
approval to settle Es-
tate. Request details.

Rittenhouse Auction
Company RY-136-L
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www.rittenhouseauction.com

5060/COMPUTERS

WORD PROCESSOR for
sale. \$35.00
Call
724-370-8019.

5130/FURNITURE

TWIN BED boxsprings
complete with wooden
headboard, still in pkg.
unopened. \$175/best
offer. 724-350-1748

5160/HOME HEALTH CARE

ADULT potty chair never
used. 3 wheels (one
with wheels). \$20. 724-
797-5759.

5195/SPORTING GOODS

GOLF CLUBS Power
Built new, never used
w/bag. \$256. 724-483-
6724, 412-551-4848.

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JUNK CARS,
TRUCKS & VANS
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-- \$75 & Up --
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mended w/references
in your area. acre
min. Call JE Logging
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5560/DOGS - PUREBRED

LHASA APSO PUPS for
sale. \$300-\$350. Reg-
ister 1st shots. 724-330-
2186.

PIT BULL - ADPA Reg'd.
8 mo. female. Reverse
blue brindle, shots.
\$900. 724-258-2787.

5570/DOGS - MIXED

CORGI MX 8 wks. old.
brindle, 1st shots, de-
wormed. \$75. 724-938-
0868.

5600/LOST & FOUND

LOST white male Pit
Bull, very friendly, an-
swers to Fredo, Conrad
Ave., N. Charleroi.
724-470-6780.

6050/PARTS & ACCESSORIES

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AUTO PARTS
At Affordable Prices
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bring, loaded, sunroof,
V6 fuel injected, low
miles \$5,700. 724-
823-0000

2002 HONDA - 38,000
miles, moon roof, Very
good condition. \$8,200
neg. 724-684-8198.

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16K miles, leather. Ex-
tended warranty.
\$10,800. 724-938-3512

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2006 BUICK Lacrosse
#8288A, only 13K. Now
\$15,995.

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7348A, 434, Great
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Pacifica #P725,
leather, full power.
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ited #8148A, 4x4. Now
\$15,995.

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#8108A, loaded, like
new. Now \$27,995.

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auto, air. Now \$13,995.

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FORD 2001 Windstar
Van has it all. Children
will love DVD system.
Hurry
Bargain Price....\$4299

GMC '97 Conversion
Van High Top. Sharp
one in town
Bargain Price....\$5999

FORD '97 Explorer Sport
6 cyl., 4WD. This is a
must see
Bargain Price....\$3899

CHEVY '95 S10 Pickup
auto., 4WD, high miles,
looks & runs good.
Bargain Price....\$2699

CHEVY '95 Cargo Van
71,000 miles, one
owner, new inspection.
A rare find
Bargain Price....\$2299

FORD '98 Windstar Van
77,000 miles, new in-
spection, nice van
Bargain Price....\$2999

OLDSMOBILE '96 Clera
4 door, 89,000 miles,
new inspection. Must
see
Bargain Price....\$2899

CHRYSLER '96 Con-
corde family luxury,
beautiful, one owner,
83,000 miles
Bargain Price....\$2899

LINCOLN '92 Continen-
tal very nice luxury ride
Bargain Price....\$2299

CHEVY '98 Cavalier 4
cyl., 5 spd, looks &
runs good
Bargain Price....\$2299

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TRUCKS & VANS
Wanted to Buy
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4 Door, New Body Style, A/C & More

SAVE \$3,700

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Automatic, P/W, P/L, Cruise, Tilt

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2008 GRAND CHEROKEE

6 CYL., ALL POWER OPTIONS, LOADED!

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2008 JEEP LIBERTY 4X4

V-6, Auto, Fog Lights, Fully Equipped

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2008 COMMANDER 4X4

6 Cylinder, 7 Passenger Seating, Rear A/C, Fully Equipped

\$24,995

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1st & 2nd Row Power Windows/Rear A/C, Remote Start, Power Pedals, Full Stow N' Go, Fully Loaded

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4 CYLINDER, AUTO, ALL POWER OPTIONS

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Auto, Hemi, 20" Chrome Wheels, Chrome Pkg., Trailer Tow, Leather Interior, Power Roof, All Power

TAKE \$11,000 OFF STICKER!!

2008 QUAD CAB HEAVY DUTY DIESEL 4X4

Auto, 6.7 Cummins Diesel, Power Seat, Anti Spin, Loaded w/Options

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Air, Auto, CD & Much More

LEASE for 36 months \$189/month

BUY FOR \$13,995

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Auto, 6 Cylinder, And All Power Options

WAS \$19,470

BLOW OUT \$15,995

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Auto, V-6, Aluminum Wheels, Satellite Radio, Loaded

LEASE for 36 months \$249/month

MSRP \$21,120

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Full Stow N' Go + Power Options

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3060/FOR SALE/WASH.

CALL FOR DETAILS
NEW EAGLE Nice duplex on double lot. One side rented. Call today for appl. & details. \$68,021.
DONORA 3 unit building 1 retail & 2 apartments. Call for information on this investment. \$30,021.
MONONGAHELA 2 bedroom, 2 story Newer kitchen, enclosed sun room & deck off kitchen. \$64,421.



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724-348-7470

FALLOWFIELD TWP. by owner 1 1/2 story, 2 bedroom on 1/2 acre country setting. Great home for the do-it-yourselfer. Plenty of potential. Newer roof, furnace & AC. 2 car garage. \$85,000. 724-938-3303.

STOREROOM on 1st Floor includes 2 apts. upstairs with separate utilities. LOCATED McKean Ave., Charleroi. \$19,500.
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WEST NEWTON. Residential lot perfect for your modular, mobile or to build your dream home on! Buy now and build in the spring! Asking \$10,500.



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3540/APTS-RENT/FAYETTE

MULLIGAN MANOR APARTMENTS
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Accepting Applications for one bedroom units. All utilities included, initial occupancy and rental amount based on income. Maximum (flat) rent of \$279/mo.
For appointment, leave message at 724-785-2081 FCHA



3066/FOR SALE/OTHER
724-929-1370

CALL FOR DETAILS

CHARLEROI Duplex. Solid investment. Needs nothing both in great shape. Call today. \$45,000.

ROSTRAVER Developer's dream in a prime location with many possibilities. 230.5 acres. Call for more information.

ELIZABETH TWP. Cute raised ranch with newer carpet & lots of updates. 1 bedroom with possible 2nd. Close to Rt. 51. \$52,000.



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3066/FOR SALE/OTHER

PATTON ST. Immaculate 3 bedroom solid brick Cape. Hardwood floors, beautiful cherry kitchen. Fully appliances, large rooms, cedar closet. Level yard and 1 car detached garage. Home warranty. \$90's. **INVESTORS ALERT!** See this commercial opportunity. Ranch with 4 car garage, main building with apartment and 2 commercial rentals. 1 single home. All with plenty of parking. \$315,000



3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON
724-929-1370

3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI large 1 bedroom, 1 floor, tree parking. \$475 includes all utilities. References. 724-825-8395

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom apt. Convenient downtown location. Secure hldg. Equipped kitchen, dishwasher, a/c, w/w carpet, laundry facility, community room, on-site parking. Applicants must be 62 yrs or older & meet income guidelines. Call: 724-438-3089.

CHARLEROI 1 & 2 bedroom apts. for rent w/intercom, wall to wall carpet, washer/dryer. \$325-\$400. Security deposit. No pets. 724-292-1189 724-396-1140

MONONGAHELA Modern 1 bedroom apartment. Air conditioning, refrigerator, stove, elevator, intercom, laundry, storage, security. Starting at \$350 + electric. Call 412-257-0902.

3605/HSE-RENT/FAYETTE
N. BELLE VERNON. 2 bedroom, newly remodeled, living room, family room, kitchen, bath, g/s, laundry facility. \$550+ utilities. No pets. 724-928-8733.

3625/HSE-RENT/WMLD.
MONESSEN 2 to 3 bedroom single family. 3 blocks from Douglas School, students welcome. \$375+ utilities. 412-537-9584.

3636/GARAGE/STORAGE
MONESSEN 1 Car Garage for Rent \$75 Month. Lease Required. Call 724-333-6042.

3700/COMMERCIAL RE
MODERN OFFICE OR RETAIL SPACE BELLE VERNON 719 Broad Ave., air conditioning, 1,500 sq. ft., off street parking. MONONGAHELA 215 Chess St. 2,000 sq. ft. Call 412-257-0902.

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3555/APTS-RENT/WASHINGTON

CHARLEROI 1 bedroom, cute, newly remodeled, all utilities incl. except electric. \$450. Call 724-564-8282.

CHARLEROI downtown full 1 bedroom, appliances, A/C & all utilities inc. \$550+ sec. No pets. 724-244-2966.

DONORA 1 bedroom apt., 1st floor, no steps. All utilities included including garbage. \$425. Hud ok. 724-379-7327.

MONONGAHELA 1st floor apt., 3 bedrooms, laundry hookups, yard & garage. \$495+ utilities. 724-258-6481.

MONONGAHELA 1, 2 & 3 bedroom new private apts. w/intercoms, by bus stop. \$300-\$480. 724-258-2473.

BELLE VERNON 2 bedroom, 1 bath, renovated 1/2 duplex, no pets, very nice & peaceful. \$450+ utilities. 724-331-4418.

FELLSBURG Rostreaver upstairs, 2 bedroom, A/C, appliances, yard, carpeted, no pets. 724-379-9828.

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Service Directory

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APPLIANCES WES'S Used Appliances 90 Day Warranty \$75 & Up 724-529-2863	BUILDING/REMODELING S. MANGES CONST. - specializing in additions, decks, roofs, garages, siding, all home remodeling. Free est. Insured. 724-258-7722.	CLEANING SERVICES SPOTLESS CLEANING general housecleaning at it's best. Dependable. References. 724-872-1089.	EXTERMINATION COMPLETE Pest Elimination. Termites. Low Prices. 724-483-0450.	PRIDE HAULING & Contracting Services All Types of Hauling Clean-Outs/Roll-off Dump Truck Service 724-938-2680 412-780-0862 Credit Cards Accepted	LAWN MOWER REPAIR BECK'S Repair all makes of push & riding mowers, rototillers, saws, snow blowers, gas & diesel farm tractors. Pick up & del. 724-258-4140.
APPLIANCE PARTS CHARLEROI SWEEPER vacuums - repairs - parts 618 Fallowfield Ave 724-483-3397.	BUSZY BYRON siding, windows, soffit, fascia, downspouts & gutters, p.g., additions, plumbing, electrical, sewer cleaning & camera service. 724-684-8699 724-309-5130.	GENERAL Housekeeping Reasonable. 724-483-3039, 724-825-5175.	FENCING DON'S FENCE chain link, wood, vinyl, hand rails & all your fencing needs. Free est. res. rates. 724-929-3218.	GENERAL hauling & clean-ups , cellars, garages, yards. Dep. Rich 724-872-0865, 1-800-566-4167.	LAWN SERVICE LAWNS & shrubbery cut, trimmed, mulch, garden tilling. Free est. Ins. 724-258-3407.
AUCTION SERVICE STRICKLER'S Auction Service. Estates or consignments. 724-326-4050. Buy or sell.	CCS INC. All home improvements. Free est. Calls will be returned. 724-348-6276.	Classified Ads Work. Call The Valley Independent Newspaper.	FIREWOOD SPUT/ seasoned, cherry/hardwood. 1/2 cord del. \$65. B.V. 724-816-2630.	HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING MY Heating & Air Cond. Service, installation, sales. Authorized Rheem & Ruud Dealer. 24 hr. service, fully ins., free est. 724-797-3772, 724-938-3695.	MASONRY/CONCRETE John Yurkovich Masonry. Retaining walls, sidewalks, patios, steps, driveways, chimneys, garages. Fully ins., free est. Over 11 yrs in business. 724-684-5014, 724-62